

Animals & Men

The Journal of the Centre for Fortean Zoology



**The Mystery Moth of Madagascar;
Leopard Cats; The Lake Storsjon
Monster; Mystery Whales; Wild
Boar in Kent**

Issue Ten

£1.75

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THE GREAT DAYS OF ZOOLOGY ARE NOT DONE

With this issue we have now reached double figures, and the Centre for Fortean Zoology is going from strength to strength. We are now in the position where we are able to do something more than just publish magazines and books.

At the Fortean Times sponsored Unconvention this year, Karl Shuker introduced me to someone who almost by accident has steered us onto the course which will hopefully define the next few years of our existence. The person Karl introduced me to was Owen Burnham, who as a schoolboy discovered the carcass of what many people believe was a sea-serpent on a beach in The Gambia. I chatted to him with interest, and was amazed when he told me that he was 'pretty sure' that he could find the spot on the beach where the carcass had been buried.

Since then events have gathered momentum, and plans are being drawn up for an expedition to The Gambia. We have a map of the beach, a little like Long John Silver's Treasure Map in 'Treasure Island' with a large 'X' marking the spot where we believe that the carcass of the Gambian Sea Serpent (good initials eh?) is buried. Within the past few weeks one of our associates went to The Gambia, and drew a detailed map of the portion of the beach where Owen remembers the creature as being buried. This map proves that whether or not the bones are still there, the building development which has taken place in the area over the past decade and a half has not affected the place where the carcass is buried.

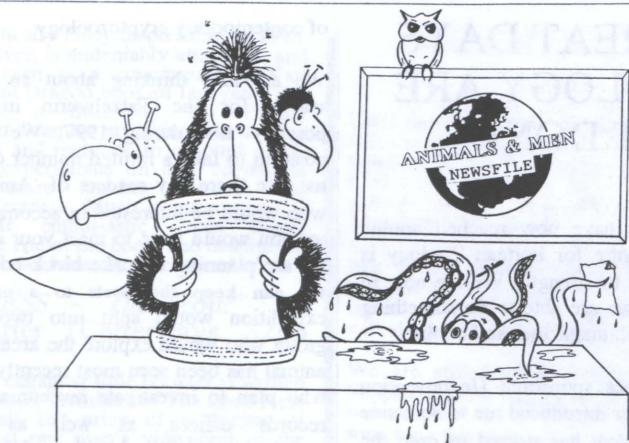
We have got the backing of a television company, and it looks as if we are on course to investigate one of the most tantalising mysteries

of contemporary cryptozoology.

We are also thinking about an expedition to search for the Tatzelwurm in Switzerland, possibly also during 1997. We will be in a position to take a limited number of people with us. Are there any readers of 'Animals & Men' who would be interested in accompanying us? If so, you would have to meet your own costs, but we are planning to make block bookings so that we can keep the costs to a minimum. The expedition would split into two groups; one group who would explore the areas in which the animal has been seen most recently and the other who plan to investigate museums, libraries and records offices, as well as interviewing eyewitnesses, with the aim of building up as complete a dossier as possible on this reclusive cryptid. This expedition is still at the earliest planning stages but we would welcome feedback from our readership, and if there are enough people interested in becoming involved to make this expedition a viable possibility then we shall definitely be going ahead!

If you are interested, give us a ring...





This will be Jan Williams' last Newsfile. After two and a half years of sterling service she has decided to call it a day as Newsfile Editor. She will be continuing as regional representative for Buckinghamshire, author of the A-Z of Cryptozoology, and as occasional contributor of other articles. We wish her well, and are glad that she has not gone for good, because we would miss her terribly if she were to leave us completely, because in a very real sense none of this would have happened if it had not been for her. Thanx Jan.

NEW AND REDISCOVERED SPECIES



EVERYBODY'S GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE EXCEPT FOR ME AND MY MONKEY

Various newspapers in April reported that "A tiny monkey weighing just seven ounces and thought to be extinct has been rediscovered in southeast China". (*The Times* 23.4.96). The stories went on to report that these animals, known as 'Ink Monkeys' had been the traditional pets of Chinese scholars. They gained their name because they had been kept to prepare ink, known for the last 4,000 years in China. They were also supposed to assist the scholars by passing brushes and turning pages. Zhu Xi, the 12th Century Chinese scholar was said to have kept one as a pet.

These stories were so bizarre that our intrepid reporter Tom Anderson decided to investigate. The tale recounted below is pieced together from several pun filled letters from Tom to us...

The story was also carried by the ubiquitous Aberdeen Press and Journal, so he contacted them for more information. They said that the story had come from The Press Association, but on contacting them he was told that their agency only dealt with UK stories, and suggested that he try Reuters. In his own words:

"A very nice man in their library told me (despite the fact that I'm not a subscriber), that it emanated from the Chinese News Agency Shin Wa, and that the only details that he had was that the monkeys weighed 200 rammes each.

After various confusing (or Confucian) calls I at last reached their scient fic correspondent, Mr

Jiang Yan.

Between his accent and mine (Tom is fairly seriously Caledonian. Ed.), progress was not too rapid but I faxed him down a request for some more details which he said he would have in 24-48 hours"...

Tom signed off by promising..

"I'll be gibbon you the details before much langur"...

And we awaited the next stage of the investigation with baited breath.

Three days later we received a letter from Tom, which for various reasons is unprintable, and a photocopy of the fax he had received back.

APRIL 25, 1996
TO: MR TOM ANDERSON
FAX 012244 890376

FROM: MR JIANG YAN
XINHUA NEWS AGENCY LONDON BUREAU
FAX: 0171 722 8512
TEL: 0171 586 8271

Dear Sir,

Today I receive a fax from Beijing which contains very brief information about rediscovered ink monkeys.

I am terrible sorry for our headquarters couldn't collect more detail for your inquiry.

Sincerely Yours

Mr Jiang Yan

It is now only left to us to speculate whether the original story was made up in Beijing or London...

THE WORM TURNS

A 73 year old retired butcher from Austria was charged recently for attempted fraud. With the aid of a salami sausage and a felt pen he had been faking photographs of the legendary Tatzelwurm, and pestering tourists to buy them. His excuse? He couldn't afford to live on his pension or to feed his ferrets. He was unconditionally discharged. Scottish Evening Express 21.6.96.

ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL

A new species of monkey, the sixth since 1990 has been discovered in the Brazilian rain forest. *Callithrix saterei* is bright orange and the size of

a squirrel. Experts claim that another five species are likely to be discovered in the same area within the next decade. *Die Welt* 22.6.96

PRIMAL PRIMATE

The fossil remains of a mouse sized creature that could be the missing link between the most ancient monkeys and higher primates has been discovered in China. *Eosimias centennicus* was discovered along the banks of the Yellow River. In life it would have weighed only 99 grammes and lived 40 million years ago. *The Times* 5.4.96.

I'M ALWAYS TOUCHED BY YOUR PRESENCE DEER.

Tibetan Red Deer, or Shou, have been rediscovered in Alpine meadows about seventy five miles east of Lhasa. George B. Schaller of the Wildlife Conservation Society and Chinese colleagues Wang Xiaoming and Liu Wulin found more than 100 of the deer in the region last October. Shou were last seen in the wild in the 1940s.

EARLY AMPHIBIANS

New fossil evidence from Australia proves that The first amphibious creatures crawled onto land more than 150,000,000 years earlier than was previously thought. Schoolboys Angus Hamley and Guy Thulborn found fossilised teeth and bones in a strata in Queensland dating to 333 million years ago. Guy's father, Dr Tony Thulborn, a zoologist at Queensland University, is leading a team carrying out further investigations at the site. He said:

"Those ancient creatures were nearly three feet high and resembled a cross between a crocodile and a salamander from Hell. They had a powerful tail, a massive head, and lots of nasty teeth". (Daily Mail 28.4.96).

SEA AND LAKE MONSTERS

(and other marine stories that don't fit in anywhere else)

MALAYSIAN DRAGON.

Several newspapers in late May reported that Malaysian Fishermen had found the carcass (some reports said skeleton) of what they thought was a 'dragon'. The cynics amongst the world of cryptozoology were convinced that it would turn

IDENTITY CRISIS.

The headline read: 'Whale dies' but the story was about a 12 foot Basking Shark stranded, still alive, on a beach at Tenby in Pembrokeshire. Wildlife experts joined concerned holiday-makers in a fruitless six hour struggle to save the creature. What was the headline writer drinking when he wrote the article though? Where can the Editor of this journal get some? *Aberdeen Press & Journal* 10.6.1996

THE 'CASE' FOR G.S

Clyde Roper, from the Smithsonian Institute is in the South Pacific searching for living specimens of A chiteuthis. He hopes, in November, with the aid of a mini submarine, to be the first person to see one of these giant squid alive in its natural habitat. He plans to follow squid hunting whales up to 900m beneath the sea. To date, only dead and dying specimens have been found washed up in beaches, ensnared in fishing nets and vomited up by sperm whales. *The Times* 18.2.96; *Die Welt* 29.4.96.

IT'S FOR YOU-OOO

Fishermen in Bornø have started to steal pay-phones for use as electronic bait in fish traps. The electricity passing through the microphones produces a high pitched sound which seemingly attracts the fish. This is somewhat reminiscent of an episode in 'Songs of Distant Earth' by Arthur C Clarke (who I, for one much prefer outside his 'mysterious world' persona). Weird! (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 26.4.96).

WHAT A WHOPPER!

A giant Conger Eel, nearly 10 feet long which weighed almost as much of a man was caught off the Scottish coast in February. It was, according to the newspaper report, an almost legendary fish that had been eluding tawlermen for years. *Aberdeen Press and Journal* 23.2.96.

PASSION KILLER

The strange deaths of sea-lions on the South California coast have been attributed to the 'Marauder of San Miguel Island', a rogue giant male sea-lion.

Marine biologists say that up to 200 female sea-lions have been crushed to death in the last five years by the Marauder (thought to be a hybrid of Steller's sea-lion and a smaller Californian species. The male is said to weigh about eight



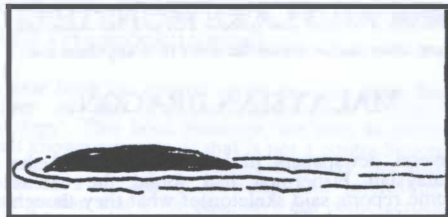
out like so many others before it, to be the decomposing carcass of a Basking Shark. We were all wrong! It was the decomposing carcass of a Killer Whale. *Aberdeen Press and Journal* 28.5.96; Teletext BBC 27.5.96.; ITV Teletext 28.5.96. Dr Karl Shuker Pers. Comm.

'DOC' DOES IT AGAIN

In a letter dated 25th June 1996 Tony 'Doc' Shiels writes:

"At around ten, last night, I took a stroll down to Lough Cullaun and - sure enough - saw a single dark, low hump gliding through the water, in the Corofin direction. It didn't surprise me. It was nothing spectacular, just a dark shape about four feet long, visible for six or seven seconds. (....) It's not important - it just happened - and there were no other witnesses (as far as I know).

Some few years back, there was a rumour about a giant eel in Lough Cullaun, but almost every lake in Ireland has such 'legends'..."



PIC BY TONY SHIELS

times more than his victims. (Daily Mail 4.6.96).

Other mysterious deaths amongst North American marine mammals took place amongst the Florida manatee population which was decimated by an unknown cause. Scientists were worried that an unknown virus might have reached epidemic proportions amongst the species, but the deaths were eventually identified as being the result of a 'red tide' algal infestation on.

BHM ETC



TOO MUCH MONKEY BUSINESS

Scientists in the Brazilian jungle have discovered an almost complete skeleton of an extinct monkey (*Protopithecus brasiliensis*). Individual bones of this animal, which lived until about 10,000 years ago have been found since 1835, but this is the most complete specimen yet. In life the animal would have looked like the head of a howler monkey transplanted onto the body of a spider monkey. This is of considerable interest to those cryptozoologists interested in the notorious and controversial De-Loys' Ape. (*Ameranthropoides loysii*).

Although, recent information has suggested that those who have always believed that the classic photograph from 1920 was a hoax, were correct, the existence, within relatively recent historical times, of a large spidermonkey like primate is undeniably interesting. Die Welt 23.5.96; Darren Naish

Pers Comm

NEVER WHICH WAY BUT WHATEVER

An Orang Utan abandoned by its owner on a street in Taiwan grabbed a girl and kissed her repeatedly before being restrained by Police, it was reported yesterday. *Aberdeen Press and Journal* 29.5.96

WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

A mystery white tribe has been reported in Irian Jaya. Indonesian anthropologists are investigating sightings made by villagers in the Wingar River area. The tribesmen are said to be tall and pale skinned and carry parrots on their shoulders which warn of strangers. (Daily Mail 1.7.96).



RELEASE THE BATS (B-B-B-B-B-B-BABY BATS)

A Male Savi's Pipistrelle, a species found in Britain only once previously was rescued from two cats in the backyard of a house in Wallasey, Merseyside. The creature, named Wallace, by Wildlife Rescue Officers in Liverpool, had strayed a long way from its normal habitat in the Mediterranean. Experts were trying to establish whether the animal was a vagrant, or "part of a small migrant population". The Times 13.3.96

This seems as good a place as any to introduce the subject of this issue's phone in quiz. We were very pleased with the response to the quiz in the last issue. The winner was Al Pringle from Cricket St. Thomas Wildlife Park in Somerset who correctly realised that our headline was a bastardisation of a song by John Otway and Wild Willie Barrett called "Be careful of the flowers 'cos you know they're going to get you — yeah". Three other people got the answer right but too late alas. Commiserations to them and to the others who got the answer completely wrong! The quiz this issue is merely based around the headline to the above piece, the question is Who? why? what? where? The prize is a free one year subscription to 'Animals & Men'. By the way, for those of you who are still asking, the line "Baal in silence dines on vulture soup" which was our phone in quiz several issues ago, is from an opera called "Baal" by Berthold Brecht!

CROCODILE IN FINCHLEY.

Now we know where Lady Thatcher, once MP for Finchley, gets her flashy Crocodile-ski handbags. Bits of a decomposing crocodile carcass which measured nearly five foot in length were found in Dollis Brook, North London. An off-duty RSPCA Inspector was walking his dog when, Oscar the Labrador waded into the stream and appeared to pull the decomposing dead reptile from the bushes.

It was reported that the fragmented corpse was sent to London Zoo to discover what species the animal belonged to. (*Aberdeen Press and Journal* 29.5.96). We approached London Zoo, but we were unable to find anyone who could give us any information.

Aberrant crocodiles across parts of the United Kingdom are not a new phenomenon. Charles Fort was interested in them and several researchers have investigated the incidents without really reaching any conclusions. These historical accounts are particularly interesting, but it seems likely that the Finchley beast was merely an unfortunate pet which was dumped illegally, either because it had grown too large for its tank, or because it had died in captivity and its owners were unsure as how to dispose of the body.

All crocodiles, alligators and caimans are proscribed under the terms of the 1976 Dangerous Wild Animals Act, but they are surprisingly popular as pets. Disturbingly it does appear to be a black market trade in such

PIC BY TONY SHIELDS

things. At an exotic pet fair we were, at recently one of our colleagues was approached on several occasions by people willing to pay high prices for a crocodile or alligator without the formality of having to obtain a license. Needless to say we were neither willing, nor able to comply with the requests, but the fact that the demand is there is disturbing in anyone's book!

GREAT SNAKES!

A nine-foot long Burmese Python was found in Campbell Park, Milton Keynes in March. Sid Mountstones found the (very) dead snake whilst walking his dog down the canal footpath. It was well away from houses and roads and no-one had admitted ownership. *Milton Keynes Citizen* 4.4.96

ANTS WITH ANGST

The Florida Ghost Ant, 1.33mm long and almost transparent has started to invade the UK. Three infestations of the species in Britain have been recorded to date, two in London and one in Birmingham, and experts fear that should the creatures infest a hospital, a serious infection risk could be posed. *Aberdeen Press and Journal* 26.4.96

ZOOFORM PHENOMENA

THE BEAST OF CHISWICK

Residents in Chiswick have been reporting sightings of a weird zooform phenomenon reminiscent of those reported in parts of the Mid West earlier this century. Loren Coleman's classic 'Mysterious America' contains several references to mysterious 'kangaroos' which ate meat and generally behaved in a most unkangaroo-like manner.

The Editor recently wrote an article for 'Dead of Night' magazine which covered these and other 'unidentified hopping objects'. It was interesting therefore, to discover that a similar animal described as "a demonic creature about two feet high with large haunches and long pointed ears" was seen in 1994 by 25 year old Joy Persaud. The newspaper story (reprinted in *TEMS NEWS* #13) implied that other people had seen this 'creature' over a period of years.

A local man, Basil Hall, claimed that what the witnesses had seen was in fact an otter. But an RSPCA spokesman is quoted as saying that:

"There haven't been any otters seen living wild in

London for the past few years and it is more likely to be a mink".

It is not for us to disagree with such an unimpeachable source but it does seem very unlikely that if, indeed Joy Persaud DID see what she claims, that any relatively small aquatic mustelid could be the cause of the sighting.

One should note, however not only that what Ms Persaud claims to have seen, whilst unlike any flesh and blood fauna likely to be reported from the area, is consistent with reports of a form phenomena across the globe and even with the currently fashionable Chupacabras (SEE BELOW) reports from various parts of the world. It should also be noted that the RSPCA were probably wrong not only in their identification, but in saying that otters no longer exist in the London area. The Times (25.4.96) reported that an otter had been seen near Reading earlier this year, only 40 miles from London, and that the species was becoming more common across the country. The Reading animal, they said, was probably a straggler from a population from Hampshire. It is also difficult to reconcile The Times' claim that this animal was the first reported in the Thames for "three decades" with the RSPCA's claim that otters had not been seen in Chiswick for the "past few years". Someone has got their facts wrong, and I don't think it's 'The Thunderer'. I find it easier to believe in a teleported Chupacabras!

WHERE THE GOAT SUCKS THERE SUCK....

Goat sucker fever is spreading across the USA and Mexico, where El Chupacabra now has its own page on the Internet. As usual, the price of cryptic fame is confusion, and one man's three foot, spiny-backed kangaroo becomes another's giant horned bat.

In the Mexican state of Sinaloa dozens of goats are said to have been found with their blood sucked dry and one human has allegedly been attacked. Farmers from Calderon village have formed vigilante squads to try and track down their flying 'goatsucker'. A rough sketch cobbled together by witnesses shows a bat-like creature, over a foot long, with two horn-like prongs protruding from a hair covered head.

Further south in Jalisco state, sheep and goats have been killed. The dead animals are all reported to have two toothmarks about a third of an inch apart, in the neck, and appear to have been drained of blood. Duran Larios, a farmer in the village of Tlajomulco, said 'it killed 15 of our sheep without leaving them a drop of blood'. Neighbour, Jose Angel Pulido Briseno said that

one of the creatures had bitten him, and Hortencia Guadalupe Cuevas said she was attacked by a flying goatsucker with huge wings.

In the Hispanic neighbourhood of Sweetwater, South Miami, Florida the massacre of sixty nine assorted goats, chickens, geese and ducks was blamed on their local goat-sucker. Ron Magill, assistant curator at Metrodade Zoo, investigated. He found a hole dug under the fence, "a classic dog digging", together with dog prints and dog hair on the bottom of the fence. The 'vampire bites' were, he said, "classic canine punctures from dogs", and the animals had not been drained of blood, as he demonstrated with a knife to one goat's jugular. Magill says he is not a sceptic. He believes in UFOs and extraterrestrials - 'its just that in this case that was not it!'

Cases continue however, with vampire-like attacks reported across South Florida. Descriptions of the beast responsible vary from a maroon gorilla to a huge flying creature which grabs its victims with a hook on the end of a long tail.

Meanwhile, the Chupacabra T-Shirt is on sale, and Jose 'Chemo' Soto, mayor of Canovana (the Puerto Rican town where all this started) and leader of well publicised weekly monster hunts, turns out to be running for re-election. The truth is out there, but which bit is it?

(Aberdeen Press and Journal 3.5.96; Scotsman 7.5.96; Southampton Daily Echo 3.5.96; Dundee Evening Telegraph 3.5.96; St Petersburg Times 21.3.96).

EDITOR'S NOTE: 'Case' workers will note the significance of the initials of the Goat Sucker. Lexilinkers might note the similarity between 'Chemo' Soto, and Chemosit. Does any of this mean anything? Probably not!

OTHER STORIES

NOT FLAMING BUT DROWNING

Six firemen dug a two foot hole to rescue a hamster dropped in a sink-unit drain at Knodishall, Suffolk. In time-honoured fashion, the hamster thanked its rescuers with a hefty bite. (Daily Mail 29.5.96).

Soccer Fan Vicky Lowe claims the ghost of her hamster 'Miss Effie' saved Reading Football Club from relegation. Vicky buried 'Miss Effie' in the goalmouth at Reading's Elm-park ground, and is convinced the hamster's spirit allowed the team to win 3-0 against Wolves. Shame no-one

Club from relegation. Vicky buried 'Miss Effie' in the goalmouth at Reading's Elm-park ground, and is convinced the hamster's spirit allowed the team to win 3-0 against Wolves. Shame no-one thought of that at Wembley. (Aberdeen press and Journal).

AS A NEWT...

Ten year old Liz Faulkner, a pupil at Pencalenick School in Trur, found this, bright yellow neotenic palmate newt. She had observed it, together with 'normal' specimens, on a number of occasions, in the pond in the school grounds. Mark Nicholson of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust said: "Neoteny has been recorded occasionally in Britain's newt species but is very rare in the palmate - I've never even seen a photo of a neotenic palmate newt". Neoteny, is of course the condition where an animal reaches adult size but retains its larval features, in the case of a newt, a tadpole like tail and external gills. Sadly, although this discovery has attracted a large amount of interest, there have been no further specimens.

MOTH MENACE

Property Management company Broadgate Estates has erected barriers around silver maple trees in Finsbury Avenue, near Liverpool Street Station in London to protect commuters from brown tailed moths. The larvae of the moth - *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* - can strip trees bare in days, and their minute hairs can cause severe skin and eye irritation in humans. *Daily Mail* 21.6.96

(EDITORS NOTE: Infestations of this species during 1976 and 1978, as well as historical accounts, were noted in issues 20 and 29 of Fortean Times. Issue 20 noted that the swarms had been getting gradually worse since the mid 1950s. They noted that the mild winter of 1975 was generally thought of as a major causative factor in the expansion of the species.

Are the recent climate changes responsible for the infestations reported this year? Or have these been happening annually since FT first noted them and it is just that the Editorial team of 'Animals & Men' haven't noticed?).



Neotenic Palmate Newt. Pic. © Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

MYSTERY CATS



Highlands, Scotland.

An Inverness motorist claimed that his car was damaged when it struck "a big black scary cat larger than an *Alsatian*" near Culloden Moor in the last week.

Two tan coloured, lioness-like cats were seen within six feet of a car at Elgin. Well lit by the headlights they were judged to be six feet long, including tail.

Lincolnshire.

Lesley and Doreen Dean watched an "eight foot long, black panther" as it apparently searched for prey on their twenty acre estate near Lincoln. They said "It was a magnificent creature, pure black with piercing eyes, and a tail as long as its body". (*Daily Mail* 22.5.96).

Buckinghamshire.

A 'huge cat' with a long tail ran across the road in front of motorist Graham Stringer at Newton Blossomville on 2nd June. (*Milton Keynes Citizen* 6.6.96).

The beast of Milton Keynes appeared to a hay fever sufferer in Westcroft on 11th June. Brenda Saville got up to make a cup of tea at 4.15 a.m and saw the animal from her window. She said "it was quite tall, about the size of a medium-sized dog, and very long". (*Milton Keynes Citizen* 13.6.96).

Artist Sue Reed saw a large cat-like animal walk across the road from her car near the archway leading to Stowe School, north of Buckingham. She watched for several minutes before it disappeared into a neighbouring field and described it as the size of an *alsatian*, with white colouring on its chest. (*Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser* 31.5.96).

Two weeks later, a big cat was seen at Gawcott, south of Buckingham. It ran out in front of Chris Walsh at 1 a.m on the 11th June. She said "It was big, black and staring with its mouth open". It stood about two feet at the shoulder. (*Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser*. 14.6.96).

NEWSFILE CORRESPONDENTS

Tom Anderson, Ian Sherred,
Wolfgang Schmidt, Mark Nicholson,
Tony 'Doc' Shiels, Darren Naish,
Joan Amos, Lionel Beer,
Dave and Penny Rowe
(congratulations), Robin from
'Lobster'.

We are presently looking for regional correspondents and clipping collectors for each area not presently covered by our team. If you are interested in being a regional representative, then please telephone Alison on 01392 424811. We are also planning regular columns by representatives from different regions. We have already started with a regular column, starting this issue written by Aberdeen's Mr Entertainment; Tom Anderson. His musings on the odder side of Scottish zoology will appear in each issue.

We are also printing regular news from Richard Carter of The Loch Ness Society. We would like to run similar columns written by anyone involved in a specific field of research. We would be interested to hear from anyone with ideas about columns of this nature.

Finally, for the time being at least, the Newsfile will be compiled at the Editorial Office, so until further notice will you send all photocopies to us at the Exeter Address.

THE A-Z OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY

by Jan Williams

Emela-Ntouka:

Semi-aquatic, elephant sized beast, of the African Congo. Has a long, heavy tail, and a large horn on its snout with which it is said to disembowel elephants. Despite this aggressive behaviour, it is apparently a vegetarian.

Emmaville Panther:

Large cat-like creature reported frequently in the vicinity of Emmaville, New South Wales, Australia. Became notorious in the late 1950s when hundreds of sheep were mysteriously slain on stock farms in the area, though numerous sightings predate the Second World War. Most reports refer to a black, leopard-like cat, but sandy-coloured animals have also been seen. Emmaville is a 'window-area' where other strange events, including UFO sightings have occurred.

Filey, Sea Monster of:

Coastguard Wilkinson Herbert saw a thirty foot long monster on the beach at Filey Brig, North Yorkshire in 1934. It had an eight foot neck, huge eyes like saucers, and a mouth a foot wide. The black body had two humps and four short legs with flippers. The creature moved quickly into the sea. Fishermen had reported a monster three miles out to sea two weeks previously.

Flathead Lake Monster:

A huge, black creature seen in Flathead Lake, Montana, USA, on several occasions. Described by witness Ronald Nixon in 1963 as at least twenty-five feet long, with no fin on its back. Attempts to catch the monster with huge hooks baited with chickens met with no success.

Flixtion Werewolf:

Legend states a werewolf with huge, shining teeth, crimson eyes, a terrible stench and a long tail which it uses to fell nocturnal travellers, haunts the area of Flixtion, North Yorkshire.

Fur Bearing Trout:

Often shown at fairs, and exhibited in bars in the USA and Canada, the fur-bearing trout is said to be very rare and found only in deep and cold waters. Sadly, these very odd fish are forgeries, usually ordinary trout wrapped in Rabbit fur.

Wolf Scare

by Eric Sorensen

In Southern Sweden, in the small city of Ljunghusen, nurse Lena Sundberg claims to have been attacked by two wolves as she was working her garden. After some reading she has decided to identify them as wolves, even though they barked!

Even at the beginning of the last century reports such as this were rare, but were perhaps more widely believed. Yet, we must consider the stress of the situation. Perhaps the woman was subconsciously influenced by the fact that in 1984 a young wolf was observed in the vicinity. Occasional strays can come from the north, but there are often years between reports.

Swedish wildlife expert Olof Lisberg firmly denies the possibility of these animals being wolves, considering their behaviour during the attack, and the general shyness of wolves. He adds that wolves do not travel in pairs unless they are established in the area and this is not reported.

Personally, I think that wolves, if they could bypass the guns of the Reindeer-keeping Lapps in any numbers, could live discretely, and probably safely in Southern Sweden. Anyway, the old 'Wolf Scare' never dies, as this report has shown. Feral dogs are not known from Northern Europe to my knowledge, but recent years have seen a sort of 'arms race' with people wanting bigger and meaner dogs but devoting less time to their upbringing. Two big dogs running around would attack almost anything....

ANCIENT WHALES, SEA SERPENTS AND NESSIES PART 2: THEORISING ON SURVIVAL

Article Three in a series of Seven by

Darren Naish

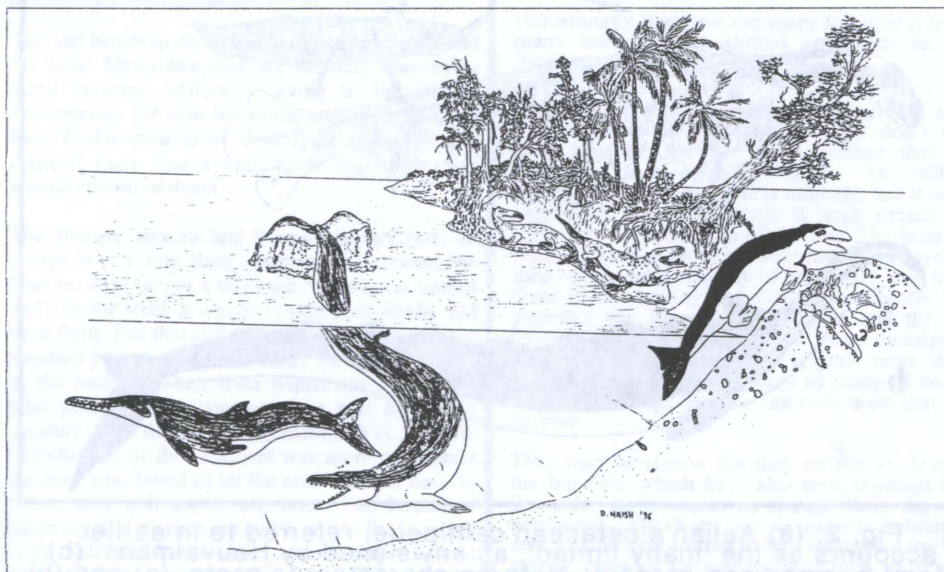
"Perhaps there are acrodelphids still cruising the oceans, zeuglodonts browsing in lakes, lochs and fjords, the ancestors of these in tropical rivers, and even some 'first ancestors' on their banks". ⁽¹⁾ (Fig. 1).

Well, perhaps. As explained in the first part of this article (2), extinct whales have long been bought 'back to life' by those seeking to explain the identities of various aquatic cryptids, and it remains for me here to review the instances where extinct whales of all kinds have been resurrected in the literature. The issues here are broad, and this is but an introduction.

To the cryptozoologist archaeocetes fall into two groups - the giant, long bodied basilosaurids ('zeuglodonts'), and the small, seal like protocetids ('pro-zeuglodonts' or 'pre-zeuglodonts'). Basilosaurids have been known since the 1830s, and have always deserved consideration in the cryptozoological literature - however just or unjust that may be - by virtue of

their great size and apparent serpentiformity. Interpretations that initially lead to their treatment as such, as shown in the first part of this article, are certainly incorrect. Furthermore, a realistic case that these animals survived anywhere near recent times cannot be reconstructed: these animals aren't coelacanthids (and with regard to the survival of large ancient vertebrates, *Lamnia* is a red herring in any case, excuse the pun...). The facts remain, however, that:

1. People have reported large, long bodied, aquatic cryptids of apparent cetacean affinity.
2. Zoologists of all stripes have speculated on archaeocete survival and evolution.



A brief historical review.

Heuvelmans⁽³⁾ and Michell and Rickard⁽⁴⁾, have provided excellent reviews of the sea serpent identities that have been proposed within the last couple of centuries. Archaeocetes - or, more specifically, the redundant name for *Basilosaurus*, *Zeuglodon*⁽⁵⁾, clearly ranks up there with *Plesiosaurus* as a favourite sea monster candidate. Numerous examples can thus be provided of instances where those pondering the identity of an aquatic, long bodied cryptid have suggested that it might actually have been a surviving basilosaur. *Basilosaurus*, thus finds itself amongst those organisms so mistakenly beloved of cryptozoologists, the 'living fossils'. At its most extreme case, this scenario results in resurrection of *Basilosaurus* itself. In what is essentially a simplified re-write of Heuvelmans' monumental 1968 tome 'In the wake of the Sea Serpents', McEwan⁽⁶⁾ suggests that some sea-serpents sound so much like *Basilosaurus* as to actually be *Basilosaurus*. His most controversial idea, yet hardly commented on as far as I am aware, is that the creature seen by Hans Egede off Greenland in 1734 was a rearing basilosaur!

Of course, the better known suggestion regarding this report is that the creature was a giant squid. In, however, his new book 'In Search of Prehistoric Survivors'⁽⁷⁾, Shuker implies that he believes Egede's monster to be an archaeocete too. The arguments for and against a squid-identity for this sighting have been discussed in the literature (see⁽⁸⁾): I have nothing new to add. To briefly introduce lake serpents (discussed further below), an article published in 1982, and voicing the opinions of Dr. Roy Mackal, goes as far as classifying 'Ogopogo' and other Canadian lake monsters as 'related to *Basilosaurus cetoides*'⁽⁹⁾. Needless to say, the accompanying illustration is of a furiously wriggling, serpentine basilosaur.

Recognising that modern sea serpents aren't exact copies of this Eocene animal, Heuvelmans was most influential in suggesting that modern sea serpents are very much modified descendants of early whales (a sensible decision, given the 36 million years of missing time). Well known, and deservedly so, amongst cryptozoologists today is the conclusion of Heuvelmans that the very much disparate morphologies reported in

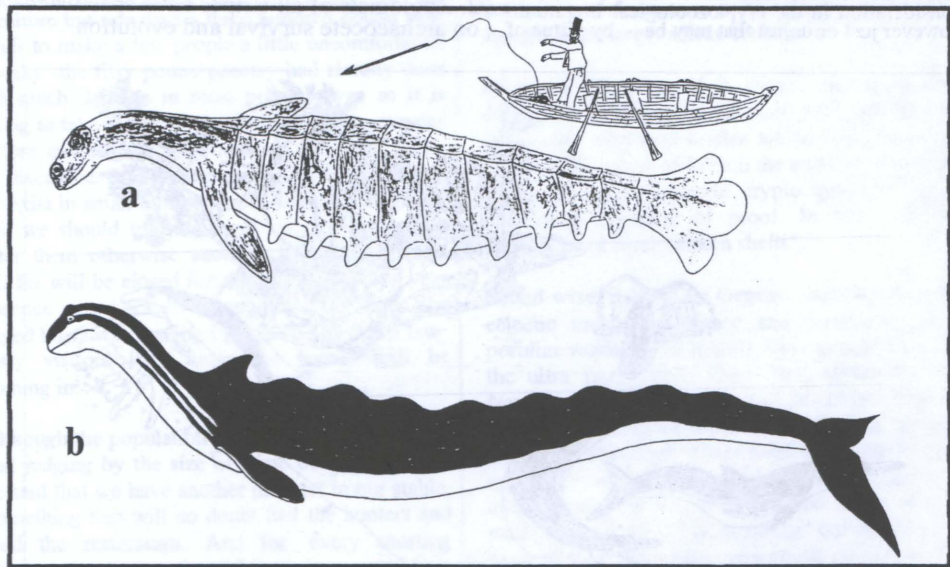


Fig. 2: (a) Aelian's cetacean centipede, referred to in earlier accounts as the 'many finned', as envisioned by Heuvelmans. (b) Many-humped sea-serpent. All three characters to scale. (a) and (b) are based on illustrations in refs⁽⁶⁾ and (11).

'sea serpent' sightings are the result of the presence of a number of species of marine cryptids, and of the nine forms that Heuvelmans recognised, he deemed three to be modern-day archaeocetes. Of these, the 'Cetacean Centipede' (*Cetio colopendra aeliani*)⁽¹⁰⁾, is a truly remarkable whale: equipped with numerous small lateral fins and an extensive covering of segmented bony plates. (Fig. 2a). Second is 'Many-humped' (*Plurigibbosus novaeangliae*)⁽¹⁰⁾, the animal mostly responsible for sightings of lines of humps (fig. 2b) - this species being particularly famous for the spate of sightings that occurred in Gloucester Bay, Massachusetts, in and around 1817. I shall discuss the third form later in this article.

Enter Lake Monsters as Basilosaurs.

Both of Heuvelmans' animals, as do archaeocetes and all other whales, lack a neck of any significant length: in fact any creature described as having a long neck certainly cannot be any type of whale. This is relevant because it has often been suggested that the Lake Champlain monster, 'Champ', is an Archaeocete. The Sandra Mansi photograph, however, taken in 1977, clearly depicts a plesiosaur type creature (fig. 3a). Therefore, 'Champ' is no whale and neither are other lake monsters or sea-serpents with definite long necks. Paradoxically (for me, anyhow), Mackal has suggested that Mansi's photograph is of a Basilosaur^{(12), (13), (14)}. This is an extremely odd conviction - it is hard to imagine a large aquatic animal more different from a basilosaur than the object in the Mansi photograph. Basing my opinions on this photograph, I vehemently oppose notions of Champ-as-basilosaur. The story doesn't end there...

'Champ' has been made whale-like in at least one other instance: it has been proposed that the Mansi photograph actually depicts the fin of a small whale! Humpbacks (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are the only whales - if not the only animals - with fins anything like the object in the Mansi photograph. Even there, the resemblance is poor as a humpback's fins do not bend over sharply at the tip (they are too stiff). Is it likely, in any case, that there are humpback whales in Lake Champlain? The idea that landlocked marine cetaceans may have contributed to, or be responsible for, lake monster sightings, is as appealing as it is unsubstantiated.⁽¹⁵⁾

'Champ' and a few of its cousins may not be the subjects of this article but other lake monsters are. Individual eye-witness accounts will not be referred to in this article because they would take up too much space (please consult other sources, e.g. (16)), but we must consider a few sightings to witness the imposition of archaeocetes well into the cryptozoological Hall of Fame.

To put it another way, the idea that lacustrine as well as oceanic archaeocetes still form an exciting part of our fauna is augmented by eyewitness accounts. The arguments against this possibility I have presented previously⁽¹⁷⁾ but in theory some of the odds are high: in less than thirty million years at least five other whale families have adapted to freshwater life and even marine whales can tolerate freshwater conditions. Versatile, unspecialised whales can be modelled for aquatic life in any number of environments, and this might be a reason for the success they seem to enjoy in cryptozoology - at the theoretic level of course. A possibility seems to exist that smooth backed 'rolling' lake monsters are whales, but aren't archaeocetes. Maybe we still have yet to learn about some new type of elusive freshwater cetacean.⁽¹⁰⁾

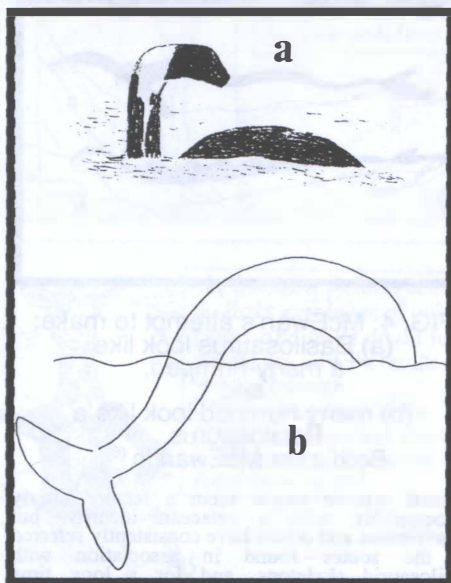


Fig. 3: (a) a diagrammatic representation of the plesiosaur-like object appearing in the photograph taken by Sandra Mansi on her visit to Lake Champlain in July 1977. (b) the exceedingly whale-like tail of 'Ogopogo', as sketched by Mrs. B. Clarke in 1974. Please refer to text. (b) is copied from Clark's sketch which is reproduced in ref. (19).

Whales with body armour.

But for the anatomical impossibility of serpentine, wriggling, long bodied basilosaurs fit rather well the sea-serpent accounts given in the texts. McEwan even went as far as showing that the dark upper and white underparts of some many-humped sea-serpents were consistent with a cetacean identity, and consequently both *Basilosaurus*, and the 'many-humped' (which he calls 'multi-humped', incidentally) are restored accordingly in his book (fig. 4).

Not only for many-humped, but also for other sea serpents, however there exist yet more anatomical hurdles, if they are to achieve whaledom.

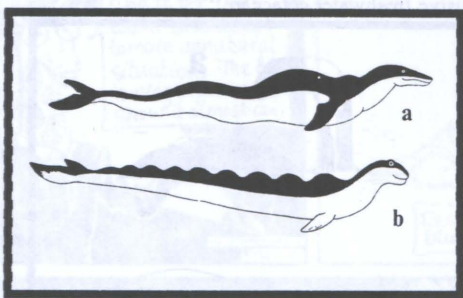


FIG. 4: McEwan's attempt to make:
(a) *Basilosaurus* look like
a many-humped,
and
(b) many-humped look like a
Basilosaurus.
Both after McEwan in (6).

Dermal armour might seem a feature utterly incompatible with a cetacean identity, but Heuvelmans and others have consistently referred to the scutes found in association with basilosaurid skeletons, and for a long time believed to be a primitive feature widespread amongst early whales. Some authors have even suggested that the tubercles found on the leading edge of the dorsal fin of the Black Porpoise (*Phocoena spinipinnis*) are relicts of this armour (e.g. (2)). What we know of early cetaceans has come a long way in recent decades though, proving these assertions incorrect. It is now well known that the scutes sometimes found in association with archaeocete skeletons are actually from early leatherback turtles - archaeocetes, like living whales did not have any kind of bony armour at all. There is no evidence that the tubercles on the Black Porpoise are degenerate remnants of earlier

structures, or retained at all from any ancient ancestors: rather they represent a recently evolved oddity of this species (these are called neomorphs).

The existence of armour in archaeocetes was referred to in the cryptozoological literature for longer than anywhere else - palaeozoologists had cast strong doubts on the existence of it as long ago as 1936. (21) Seemingly, while 'armour' continued, as it does, to be reported on sea serpents, it tied in even neater with a proposed archaeocete identity.

Here we find the explanation for the peculiar armour-plating that covers the dorsal surface of Heuvelmans' 'Cetioscolopendra': his evolve basilosaurs have gone so far with their dermal scutes as to be totally encased in a rigid suit of it. Similarly, bumps and scales on the flanks of 'Plurigibbosus' have been explained as retaining armour scutes, and, likewise, for freshwater serpents: on the basis of its amphibious habits and armoured back. Heuvelmans proposed an archaeocete identity for the South American *Minhocao* (22). That this animal is also a burrower that allegedly grabs livestock from beneath the ground (it also has small 'horns'), should demonstrate beyond doubt that it is non-cetacean. (23)

While it is certainly evident, therefore, that there is no reason to expect armour in a basilosaur descendant, this does not make it an impossibility. The porpoises cited above have evolve their own dermal scutes, and it is well known that ground sloths and some other mammals have too. So this entire area of reasoning is something of a straw man! Even so, you still need the evolved basilosaur before you can have the neomorphic dermal scutes upon its back.

Tale of a whale's tail.

One of the lake monsters most likely to be considered as a surviving basilosaur is 'Ogopogo' of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia. Sometimes, 'Ogopogo' is described as having 'multiple dorsal fins' or some other form of spiral ornamentation. This indicates that what the witnesses saw was a giant sturgeon (an issue far too complex and controversial for me to remark upon here). Giant carnivorous eels (24), and a 'huge river otter', (25) (26), have also been suggested as the identity behind 'Ogopogo', but as we shall see, these animals do not correlate with the morphology reported in sightings.

Amongst the North American lake monsters that lack the dermal scales of sturgeons, those with 'whiskers' or manes are evidently non cetacean too. Interestingly, these forms are often

those exhibiting definite humps. However, smooth backed monsters resembling long, black eels⁽²⁷⁾ and exhibiting other whale-like features tally far better. In 1974, while swimming toward a raft in Lake Okanagan, Mrs. B. C. Arke saw, and was actually bumped into by an animal that she estimated as 25-30 feet long.⁽²⁸⁾ Strongly suggesting that this animal was of cetacean nature is her description of its tail:

"...forked and horizontal like a whales". (Fig. 3b).

It is perhaps, fair judgement, that any aquatic cryptid with a horizontal, bifid tail be regarded a whale-like form. But things would be less interesting if they were that simple. Horizontal cetacean-style fluked tails have also been reported in lake monsters that also display humps and cranial appendages.⁽²⁹⁾ (Fig. 5a). Basing their conclusions on the photographs taken in 1937 of the Naden Harbour juvenile *Cadborosaurus* (a 3.2 metre long individual retrieved from the stomach of a sperm whale) Bousfield and

LeBlond have recently discussed and illustrated horizontal fluke-like appendages on the tail of *Cadborosaurus* also.⁽³¹⁾ (Fig. 5b). They conclude that each 'fluke' is actually a degenerate hind limb, after comparing those elements visible in the photographs, with those of a Triassic pachypleurosaur.⁽³²⁾

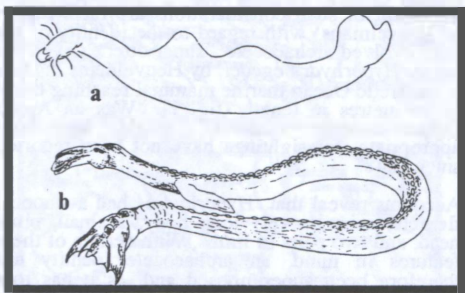


Fig. 5: (a) The humped creature seen in Lake Brompton, (Quebec) in 1976 by Mrs P. Robitaille. This sketch is based on hers, of which two versions appear on p.95 of ref.⁽³⁰⁾. (b). *Cadborosaurus* as restored in⁽³¹⁾.

They consequently term the structure a "Tail 'pseudo' Fluke". Interestingly, Heuvelmans,⁽³³⁾ drew similar conclusions for what he called the 'false tail' of his Merhorse '*Halshippus*'.⁽¹⁰⁾ - in fact, as his creature may, in at least some cases, be the same as *Cadborosaurus*, he has drawn the same conclusions regarding fluke anatomy as have Bousfield and LeBlond. It is possible that Heuvelmans' comments regarding this structure in '*Halshippus*', were at least inspired by his allocation of this form to the Pinnepedia⁽³³⁾... but then that's another story!

It is therefore evident that a 'whale tail' is not unique to Cetacea: it may be characteristic of both serpentine and humped lake serpents, and the marine *Cadborosaurus* too. This is hardly surprising: there are only so many ways a vertebrate can adapt its body for aquatic locomotion. Notably, non mammalian aquatic vertebrates have never evolved horizontal tail flukes, and that this design occurs in the cryptids discussed above strongly implies mammalian affinity.⁽³⁴⁾

Lacustrine basilosaurs far and wide

Judging by descriptions, the monster of Montana's enormous Lake Flathead could well be considered an archaeocete (and one that must be cold adapted because this lake is fed by glacial meltwater!)⁽³⁵⁾, as could the rather aggressive Marakopa River monster from Wellington Province in New Zealand.⁽³⁶⁾ 'Winipogo' of Manitoba, and other 'long, dark, sinuous beasts sighted as far east as New Brunswick'⁽³⁷⁾ have long been interpreted similarly. In the news recently is the monster of Lake Van, Turkey: on the basis of its elongate body and dorsal fins, Shuker has suggested that this animal might also be a basilosaur.⁽³⁸⁾ As this beast has horns or ears, and is somewhat hairy, it's hard to accept this - it reminds me of the non discussed above⁽³⁷⁾, but confusingly it combines the serpentine morphology and the cranial appendages of what I consider to be two different types.

Note however that certain lake monsters, 'Ogopogo' included are described as having 'alligator' heads. As we can see in the *Basilosaurus* reconstruction (figs. 1a and 6 in part 1 of this article), this is a fair description of the long jawed, small eyed head of a basilosaur (and look at fig.8). Creatures attributed with both alligatorine and serpentine features (and without dorsal scales) from certain Canadian lakes could even be seen as lake dwelling basilosaurs too, except in some cases the animals are quite small. I can understand it being irresistible to speculate that we might be dealing with dwarf forms,

adapted to the lean conditions of smaller bodies of water. Mini lake monsters that I call Horse eels ('water horses' and 'peistes' are among their local names) have also been reported from small lakes in Ireland.⁽³⁰⁾ In some descriptions these animals more than suggest a hint of cetacean. They are also capable of clumsy movement on land, hence their often overnight disappearances, and it is worth noting that terrestrial locomotion has been thought possible in basilosaurs by some workers - though a consensus nowadays would regard it as a blatant impossibility.

Important here is that most lake monsters, however, have become woven into local culture and folklore obscuring and confusing zoological identities (see⁽³⁰⁾). As is also widespread amongst cryptozoological entities, it is very likely that a number of 'lake monsters' are composites: many of these bodies of water are very large and very productive. It is thus extremely reasonable, in my opinion, to argue that animals like large eels⁽³¹⁾ may live alongside the two cryptic whale-tailed forms: the serpentine animals and the humped beasts, both of which we are concerned with here. It is unfortunate that any creature seen to appear above the surface is dubbed a 'lake monster', but such is the vicious circle of publicity.

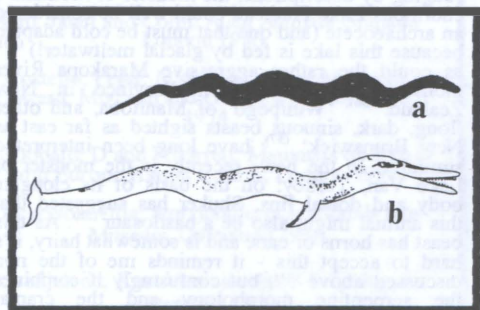


Fig. 6: (a) Swimming serpent image that can be seen on Inscription Rock, Agawa, Lake Superior. Compare this with (b), an attempt made by cetologist Slijper at restoring Basilosaurus. (a) is from a photograph that first appeared in Conway (43), and can also be seen on p.171 of ref.⁽³⁰⁾, (b) after Slijper in (44).

Were basilosaurs truly the wriggly serpentine beasts they were once portrayed as, evidence that they may have played a part in the formation of ancient lake monster legends could be the Amerindian 'swimming serpent' images that can be seen on Inscription Rock at Agawa, Lake Superior (fig. 6a).

I was amazed at the resemblance between the form of these images and the old reconstructions of wriggling basilosaurs, such as that published by Slijper in 1962 (fig. 6b). Elements of folklore, stylised representations of real animals, or early attempts at reconstructing fossil remains? There is no way to ever know. In 1991, Michael Sword considered at length the zoological identity that might be behind the Sisuitl, a large, serpentine, alligator-headed, sea serpent featured on the totemic crests of Pacific Northwest Coast Amerindians⁽⁴²⁾. Like several aquatic cryptids we have already seen, this form combines cetacean characteristics with cranial horns.

The resurrection of Eocene protocetids.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, several different types of extinct whale are now metaphorically under the 'cryptozoological blanket'. While *Basilosaurus* may well win pride of place in standard texts, the ancestral protocetids usually get a mention too.⁽⁴⁵⁾ Perhaps most important of such considerations are the writings of Heuvelmans' with regard to the identity of his third evolved archaeocete: 'super otter'. Given the name '*Hyperhydra egedei*' by Heuvelmans⁽¹⁰⁾, this is an Arctic Ocean marine mammal reaching thirty or so metres in length (fig. 7). Was an Arctic Ocean marine mammal might be more appropriate, for sightings have not been reported since 1848.

Accounts reveal that '*Hyperhydra*' had a sinuous, flexible, spine, a very long body, a small, blunt head, and two pairs of limbs. With certain of these features in mind, an archaeocete identity has therefore been superimposed and, as it has four limbs, descent away from the basilosaurids has been sought. Heuvelmans, and the authors who followed him, therefore chose protocetids as such ancestors. If this were so, '*Hyperhydra*' would be a drastically modified one: not only have these they have changed from a relatively stiff-bodied, truncated design to an extremely elongate, serpentine one. It is not my business to demolish such reasoning, for, in a hypothetical, unknown evolutionary lineage, literally anything can happen. As they stand, however, protocetids make poor models for '*Hyperhydra*' ancestors. As shown in the first part of this article, the idea that archaeocete whales could wriggle in the horizontal

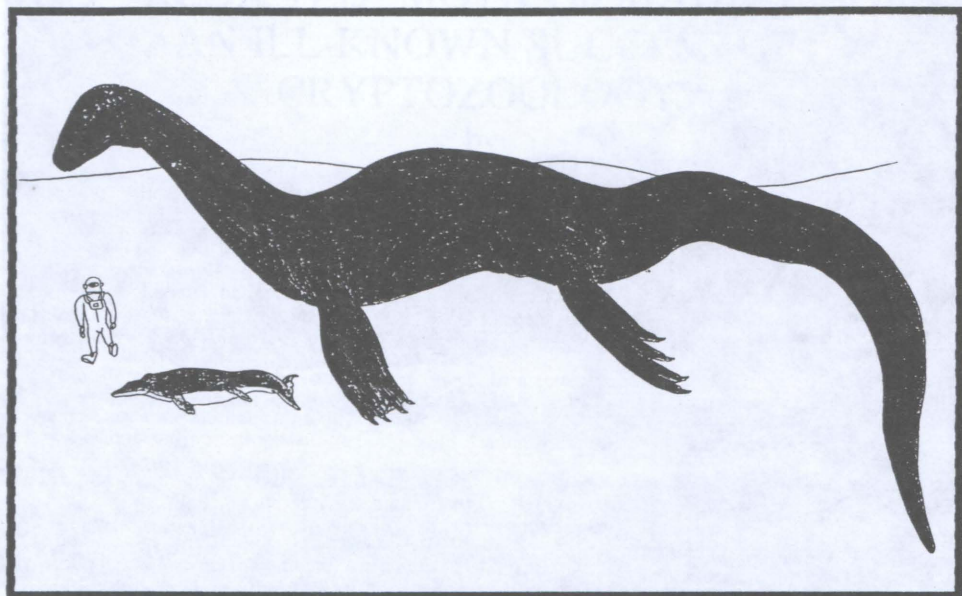


Fig. 7: 'Super-Otter' ('Hyperhydra'), as restored under the direction of Heuvelmans. Man and protocetid to scale. After illustration in ⁽¹¹⁾.

plane is essentially a myth not borne out by structural and functional analyses. For a while, it was thought that there were long bodied, serpentine protocetids, ⁽⁴⁶⁾ but such interpretations are now known to have been in error - all known protocetids are relatively short-bodied, seal-like mammals. There is no evidence for a trend towards serpentiformity, thus a hypothetical protocetid - 'Hyperhydra' lineage cannot be supported. And again we are faced with the problem of missing fossils, for the last known protocetids swam in Egyptian seas 38 million years ago. ⁽⁴⁷⁾

The crux of the pro-protocetid lobby, is the fact that four limbs are present in these modern sea-serpents. Small hind-limbs were reported in a basilosaurid in 1990 ⁽⁴⁸⁾ and probably existed throughout this group ⁽⁴⁹⁾ - some cetologists now think that hind limbs were retained by the earliest odontocetes and mysticetes too. ⁽⁵⁰⁾ This fact, the widespread presence of hind limbs in whales other than protocetids, therefore invalidates any special consideration of protocetids as 'Hyperhydra'

ancestors. Shuker ⁽⁷⁾ therefore offered basilosaurids as the closest relatives of 'Hyperhydra'. Of course, as I have previously attempted to demonstrate, the case for basilosaurid survival and post-Eocene evolution is too bad for this to be offered as an alternative.

As they say, everyone's a sceptic: unfortunately, we are far from sure if these creatures ever existed in the first place.

But in the light of evidence, no matter how meagre, what can the cryptozoologist do but explore possibilities?

It is, perhaps ironic that the best evidence of any cryptid considered to be an archaic cetacean is of a relatively modest fresh-water animal from an island in the South Pacific. The story behind the 'migo' of New Britain's Lake Dakataua will now be quite familiar to A&M readers, and I do not need to repeat it here - an analysis is in progress and will be presented elsewhere ⁽⁵¹⁾. At last, a firm footing on which to explore possibilities.

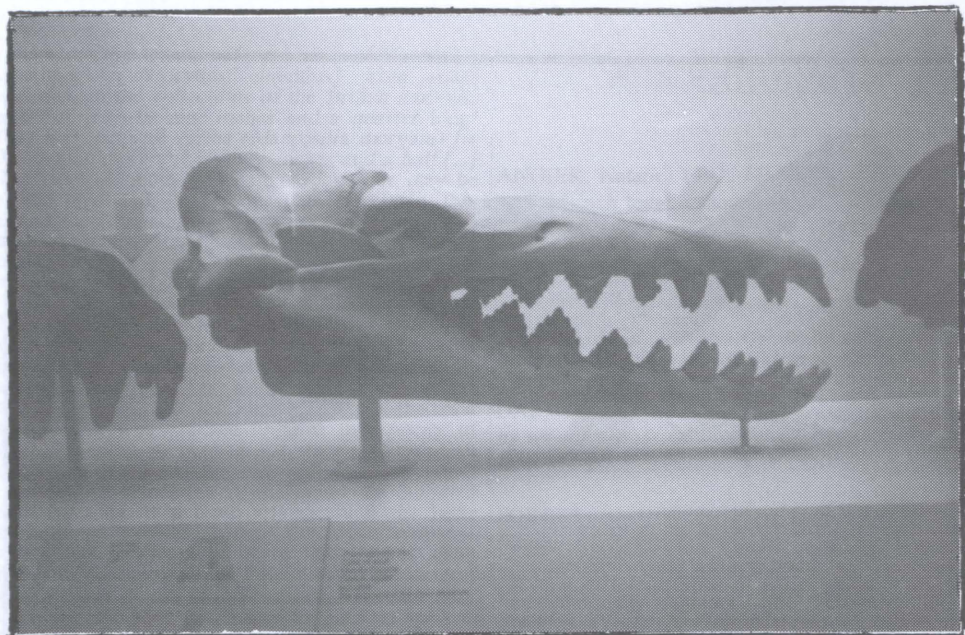


Fig. 8: The vaguely crocodilian skull of an Eocene basilosaur, *Basilosaurus isis*. Skulls such as this one are typically around 100cm in length.
Photograph D.Naish. ©

Acknowledgements.

This impossibly difficult two part article owes its completion to the assistance provided by a number of individuals. For their hospitality many thanks to Jon, Alison and other livestock of the CFZ (particularly to Carruthers for 24 hour companionship). Thanks to Karl Shuker for useful discussion, Ewan Fordyce for information on the archaeocete fossil record, Gareth Dyke and Ian Harding for loans of various kinds, Ben Roesch for material and plenty of chat, and John Moore for comments. Special thanks to Jason Head for help with functional anatomy, and Craig Harris for getting my project off the ground. On the Case? Get Stuffed.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Cryptozoology and its allied disciplines within fortiana are, by their very nature controversial subjects. As both a fortan and a zoologist (and probably many other things besides), I feel that the controversy is something to be encouraged. We have printed controversial articles before, but this one, is potentially the most controversial article we have yet included.

Darren Naish is to be congratulated for his meticulous research in producing this work. He has, however, made assertions which contradict other major works on the subject, many of them written by contributors and subscribers to this magazine. As Editor I welcome responses to this article by any of the authors he has cited, or indeed from anyone else and will print whatever we are sent, probably in the 1997 Yearbook, in the interests of encouraging an open and scientific dialogue.

SPOTTING CATS WITH SPOTS

In recent years there have been a number of instances of mysterious spotted cats being shot by farmers and 'sportsmen' in the UK. Many of these have been identified as specimens of the Asian Leopard Cat (*F. bengalensis*), but recent advances in the pet keeping world have also produced spotted cats. Mrs Anita Cox, a breeder of such animals and veteran zoologist and zoo keeper Clinton Keeling describe the two creatures. They hold radically opposing viewpoints on the matter. At the Centre for Fortean Zoology we are remaining steadfastly neutral, but invite further comments from people on both sides of the metaphorical fence:

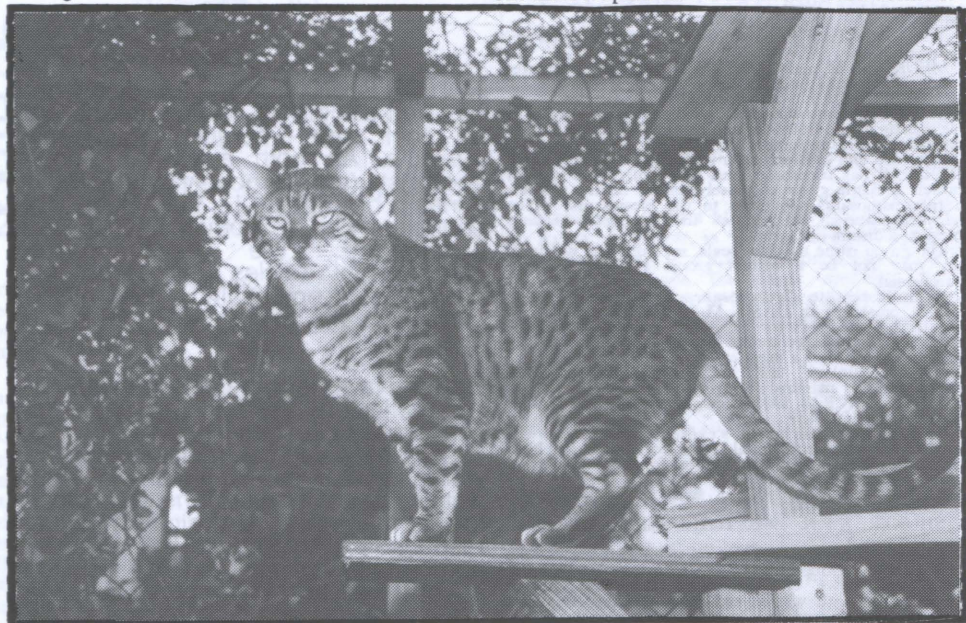
THE BENGAL CAT

by Anita Cox

An attempt by breeders initially in the U.S.A. to duplicate as far as possible, the luxurious beauty of the small wild Asian leopard cat (*F. bengalensis*), Bengals are therefore hybrids, the result of crossing domestic queens with the Asian leopard

cat. The aim being to get eventually a wild replica but with gentle domestic temperament.

The male leopard cat will not mate with a domestic



A BENGAL CAT. BRED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MRS ANITA COX

unless it has been raised with them. The first generation males from this outcross, being hybrids, are always sterile.

The spotting patterns on kittens seems to flow horizontally, is well defined and can be large spots, and even rosettes. Good examples of the breeds have pelts rather than coats, the fur being short but very plush and like silk: sometimes one gets gold dusting on the tips of the hair. These hybrids tend to be larger than most domestic cats, vigorously healthy but as yet there is much variation in the type especially the head and ear shape. They adore playing in water, are quite vocal, some sounding quite raspy and guttural. At present, breeders are attempting to mate these hybrids back to Asian leopard cats to increase the gene pool and better fix the gorgeous pelts and other attributes whilst at all times essaying to maintain sweetness of temperament.

THE LEOPARD CAT (*Felis bengaleus*)

by Clinton Keeling.

The leopard cat is one of the smaller of the thirty-seven or so species of Cats, so therefore it's a subject the zoologist or naturalist dreads writing about. Yes, these and other creatures such as most Mongooses, many rodents, the majority of Pheasant species and so on, for the very simple reason their behaviour is so unremarkable that there's precious little to say about them.

Most of the smaller Cats just sleep by day in rock crevices or in hollow trees, come out at night to prey on small mammals and birds and then, when the sun comes up, go back to sleep again. So try to write interestingly about such animals, if you will, or can. Talk about seeking to make bricks without straw...

However, I've been asked for an article about the Leopard Cat, so devotion to duty compels me to see what I can do - although don't expect too much, as there's pretty little that's out of the ordinary to hold forth about where it's concerned.

As it's found over a vast area - from India, Assam and Burma, to China, and out as far as the Philippines, then southwards to the Malay Peninsula and a number of islands - there's bound to be a considerable degree of geographical colour variation, but what might be termed a typical specimen is about the size of a domestic Cat with short, smooth fur: the ears are rather pointed and the eye greyish-yellow: the ground colour is brownish-yellow, with white on the cheeks, and liberally streaked and spotted with dark-brown and black. In many specimens the markings form

almost a dorsal line, and almost invariably the tail is banded.

The first 'British' specimen, of which we have proof (i.e., some earlier ones in menageries or privately-owned night have gone unrecorded) arrived at the London Zoological Garden in 1833, and just by chance it turned out to be a very wild and unfriendly (probably nervous) individual that resisted all attempts by its keepers to get on good terms with it. Consequently this one animal gave the species its earlier reputation for hostility, if not downright ferocity, which we now know to be quite unjustified. The fact remains, however, that in the wild it frequents forested regions and, preferring the seclusion they provide, is inclined to avoid human villages and other settlements, unlike other wild Cats.

As I said earlier, there's precious little that's out of the ordinary about the Leopard Cat, but note well that I didn't say there was nothing out of the ordinary about it - as a scientist I don't use words lightly. In fact there are two points about it worth reporting here.

First, over recent years there's been a considerable amount of crossing or hybridising it with the ordinary domestic Cat - for reasons known only to the Almighty and those who produce these violations of nature. Like all serious naturalists I greatly disapprove of this practice and foresee various problems to come in the future. Mark My words.

Then, we come upon a real mystery that will probably never be explained, and which in a way lifts the Leopard Cat out of its behavioural doldrums and places it in a category (not intended as a pun) all of its own.

In every species what is known as the 'type specimen' is the first individual to be observed or collected and scientifically described. Fine, so what about the type specimen of our subject? Simply that it was found swimming, miles from the nearest land, in the Bay of Bengal - hence its scientific name, as '*ensis*' in such nomenclature means 'from'. There's doubtless an interesting story as to how this situation (I suppose if I were a trendy I'd say 'scenario') came about, but it will forever remain one of Nature's many unsolved puzzles.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. For a listing of all Leopard Cats (and specimens of other species killed or captured) in the UK consult the paper by Dr. Karl P.N. Shuker in *Fortean Studies* Volume 2.
2. As regular readers will know, we are presently engaged in a study of the Fortean Zoology of Hong Kong, and it may be of interest to note that the Leopard

Cat is the only endemic cat species still living in the territory. It is also worth noting that on at least one occasion in our records a natural (rather than artificially contrived) cross-breeding between this species and a domestic cat has taken place, in Hong-Kong.

3. The taxonomy of the species is also controversial. Whilst it was described as *Felis bengalensis* many zoologists place it, and four other species of Asian wild cat in a separate genus: *Prionailurus*, making the nomenclature for this species *P. bengalensis*. Richard Green (1991) lists eleven sub-species.

NORTH OF THE BORDER



Scottish News from
Tom Anderson

November 24th 1995 saw the introduction of the deer bill, designed to give a government quango compusar powers to cull red deer, specially hinds.

There has been a massive increase in the herds, now numbering 350,000, the largest figure since 1945. In those days it was due to stalkers being recruited as snipers in the infantry, to-days problems are put down to mis-management. An estimated cull of 100,000 is thought necessary to redress the balance of deer to acreage. The new law would allow all terrain vehicals and helicopters to drive the herds toward the "killing grounds". This was the method used against the mustang herds in the mid-west until public pressure stopped it. Animal concern claim the existing birth control pellet to be both more effective and less contentious.

At present a red stag costs around £800 for the

stalk. services of a ghillie etc.

Add on accomodation, transport, clothing, ammunition, air fares (most shooters are foreign) and it is a sizeable industry. If he's successful the shooter pays £300 for the head and the estate keeps the meat, worth £150. The hind, having virtually no trophy value, is worth £90. Mean body weight is down in most herds and in some areas starvation is rife. Only the remoteness from the public view has stopped a national protest. As there is no political mileage involved (how many socialists have rural/highland seats?) the bill would seem to have a free passage to legislation.

Tayside police, convinced by a score of sightings over the last sixteen months, are collating all relevant information to establish a pattern of movements and population. Their wildlife officer said most reports were of a 'Black Panther' type:

"...with all these people phoning in saying they are seeing a large feline (sic), the law of averages means there probably is a large feline (sic)"..

'Eh? Ed.)'

Examined sheep kills apparently rule out dogs or foxes as:

"Whatever did it had quite a bit of power behind it".

Senior zoology lecturer at Dundee University, Dr. John Reilly, however, is "very sceptical", despite one cat appearing in someone's back garden and another (or perhaps the same animal), seen strolling the Esplanade at Broughty Ferry. No date is obtainable for this last incident, but the only possible for explanation for a big cat to venture into a densely populated built up area like this would be if it heard the seal pups which lie up there in some numbers at low tide. If true this would make an interesting addition to a felid diet.

N.B. Dr. Reilly recently returned from the Congo where he was studying dwarf crocodiles (of which he is inordinately fond) in the course of which he saved the life of a German colleague with an infected foot, using a cigarette lighter and a razor blade.

THE 'PREDICTED' MOTH OF MADAGASCAR : AN ILL-KNOWN SUCCESS OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY.

by

Michel Raynal

Cryptozoology is not only interested in giant unknown animals, as misinformed people (including some cryptozoologists) believe. Of course, living brontosaurs strike our imagination, but little unknown animals should not be neglected (and in fact their existence is often much more likely than these "monsters"). Interestingly, one of the most remarkable victories of a true cryptozoological mind, concerns a very little animal - a moth! - though it is unknown to most cryptozoologists...

In 1862, the famous naturalist Charles Darwin published a book on the evolutionary biology of orchids. *'On the various contrivances by which British and foreign Orchids are fertilised by insects'*. Studying the angraecoids, he remarked that they were pollinated by specific insects. One of these orchids from Madagascar, *Angraecum sesquipedale*, had nectaries eleven and a half inches long, with only the lower inch and a half filled with nectar. From the structure of this orchid, Darwin "predicted" the existence of an unknown moth:

"It is, however, suprising that any insect should be able to reach the nectar: our English sphinxes have probosces as long as their bodies; but in Madagascar there must be moths with probosces capable of extension to a length of between ten and eleven inches!"

Darwin then made an experiment. He took a cylinder, one-tenth of an inch in diameter, and pushed it down through the cleft of the rostellum:

"By this means alone I succeeded in each case in withdrawing the pollinia : and it cannot, I think be doubted that a large moth must thus act; namely, by driving its proboscis up to the very base, through the cleft of the rostellum, so as to reach the extremity of the nectary; and then withdrawing its proboscis with the pollinia attached to it."

This insect would, of course affect the fertilization of the orchid, and Darwin concluded to the survival of this moth from ecological evidence:

"The pollinia would not be withdrawn until some huge moth, with a wonderfully long proboscis, tried to drain the last drop. If such great moths were to become extinct in Madagascar, assuredly the Angraecum would become extinct."

In a letter published in the June 12, 1873, issue of Nature, W.A Forbes asked if readers were aware of such moths in Madagascar, and he proposed an identification:

"They would probably be Sphingidae of some kind, as no other moths would combine sufficient size and length of proboscis".

Herman Muller, in the July 17 issue of the same year, mentioned that his brother had caught in Brazil a sphinx:

"the proboscis of which has a length of about 0.25 metres",

demonstrating that Darwin's moth was not at all impossible.

In the second edition of his book (1877), the 'Father of Natural Selection' remarked:

"This belief of mine has been ridiculed by some entomologists, but we know from Fritz Muller that there is a sphinx-moth in south Brazil which has a proboscis of nearly sufficient length, for when dried it was between ten and eleven inches long. When not protruded it is coiled up into a spiral of at least twenty windings."

Meanwhile, Alfred Russel Wallace, the 'Father of Biogeography', commented at greater length on this orchid in his book *'Contributions To The Theory Of Natural Selection'* (1871), and he came to the same conclusion:

"I may hear mention that some of the large sphinx moths of the tropics have probosces as long as the nectary of Angraecum sesquipedale. I have carefully

measured the proboscis of a specimen of *Macrosilia cluentius* [= *Coccyus cluentius*] from south America, in the collections of the British museum, and find it to be nine inches and a quarter long! One from tropical Africa (*Macrosilia morgani*) [= *Xanthopan morgani*] is seven inches and a half [...] That such a moth exists in Madagascar may be safely predicted; and naturalists who visit that island should search for it with as much confidence as astronomers searching for the planet Neptune, and I venture to predict they will be equally successful."

This remark alluded to German astronomer Galle, who had searched for, and found, Neptune, after French mathematician Le Verrier predicted its existence and position, from calculations on the orbit of Uranus, then last known planet of the solar system - a well-known case in the history of sciences, often mentioned for its significance in epistemology.

And the idea of a close relation with the large sphingid of tropical Africa, *Xanthopan morgani*, which has a proboscis about 20cm, was quite judicious and prophetic. This "cryptolepidoptere" was actually found and described 41 years after Darwin's prediction: it belonged to that very species, but it was a new sub-species, with Rothschild and Jordan named *Xanthopan morgani praedicta* in 1903, i.e. "predicted", which is fully justified. This insect has a wing span of 13 to 15 cm, of the colour of a dead leaf and its proboscis is actually 25 cm (ten inches) long.

History seems to be repeating itself: American entomologist Gene Kirsty, of the Mount St Josephs of Ohio college in Cincinnati, recently made an hypothesis similar to Darwin's prediction. Another Madagascar orchid, *Angraecum longicalcar*, has a rostellum still deeper than that of *Asesquipedale*: about 16 inches (40 cm). Consequently, Gene Kirsty predicted in the American Entomologist of Winter 1991 the existence of another unknown large in Madagascar, with a proboscis 15 inches (38 cm) long! Let us hope that we will not have to wait 41 years before this new predicted moth will be found...

Front cover Photograph: The star orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale* and the predicted moth *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*. (Copyright Marcel LECOUFLE).

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Of Moose, Men and Monsters.

by Lars Thomas

About 400 km north of Stockholm in Sweden lies a mighty lake. So large in fact, that it just called Storsjon (The great lake). For many years this has been the Swedish equivalent of Loch Ness, the home of a lake monster known as *Storsjoodjuret* (The Great Lake Monster).

On an old runestone on the banks of the lake can be seen, what local legend calls the oldest depiction of the sea-monster. A long dragon-like animal circling the stone, biting its own tail. Although the image is very clear, the connection with the lake-monster is at best far fetched. The animal is probably *Jornungandr*, the Midgard snake of Nordic mythology, which encircled the world.

The story of the Storsjo-monster starts in the 1890's, when a series of reports in local newspapers caught the attention of Dr. Peter Olsson, a local naturalist and science teacher.

He started collecting sightings and studying the monster people claimed they were seeing. The oldest sighting he was able to find was from 1820, but later researchers found stories even older. An old legend, written down by a priest in 1635 tells the story of two trolls creating the monster, which suggests that the creature was well known even then.

In 1894 several wealthy local people made an effort to catch the monster. They had several large traps made, and hired a very experienced Norwegian whaler to catch the animal. The traps, which can be seen at the museum in Ostersund at the lake today, never caught anything, and the whaler spent an entire year at the lake, without even seeing the monster. Since then there has been no further serious attempt to catch the animal, and in 1986 the animal was declared a protected species.

The Storsjomonster is in many ways a typical lake-monster. It has been variously described as looking like an upturned boat, a string of humps, or like an animal with a long thin neck, and a small dog-like or a larger horse-like head. The size varies from 3 to 14 meters according to witnesses.

In two very important aspects, the Storsjo-monster does vary strikingly from other lake monsters. It apparently prefers the very narrow parts of the lake close to the most populated areas, and it has very large, prominent, white or pale ears, compared by some witnesses to sails, fins or bat wings. Not all sightings mention the ears, but those that do are all from late summer, or early autumn. This is a rather strange coincidence. It could, however easily be explained if the lake-monsters with the white ears were swimming moose, and not lake monsters at all.

In late summer and early autumn, the moose antlers are clean of velvet, and look like large, pale fins, sails or bats wings. Most of the local eyewitnesses would probably say, that they know perfectly well what a moose looks like, after all there are plenty of moose in the woods around lake Storsjon. Exactly! What most people don't know, however, is the fact that moose are very strong and powerful swimmers. They can swim several miles. Every now and then an animal will even swim from Sweden to Denmark.



Sweden showing
Lake Storsjon

At the narrowest part, this means a swim of at least four kilometers through very strong currents. The actual distance is probably even larger, since the shortest distance is between two heavily populated areas that the moose would probably avoid. Moose are also good divers. They can dive to a depth of four or five metres, and stay down for one or two minutes, munching on aquatic plants.

A good part of the sightings in the narrow parts of lake Storsjön, and definitely the sightings of the lake-monsters with big ears, are probably nothing more than moose swimming from one lake-bank to the other. And, I have no doubt, scaring the life out of people in small boats or walking along the banks, when they suddenly appear from the depths of the lake, wet and shiny, with bundles of aquatic plants hanging from their neck or mouth. It is not surprising, that people do not recognise a moose in a situation like that, and it is no surprise either, that the moose sinks back into the water and disappears as quickly as possible.

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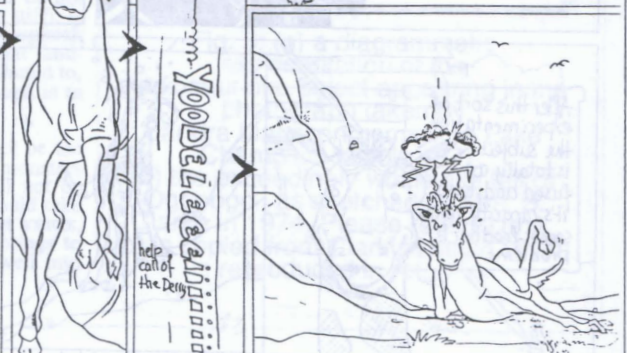
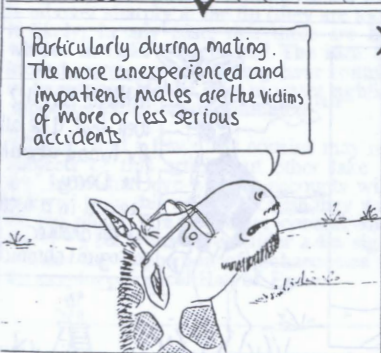
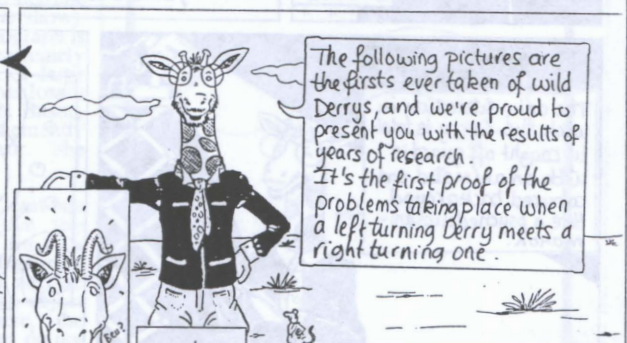
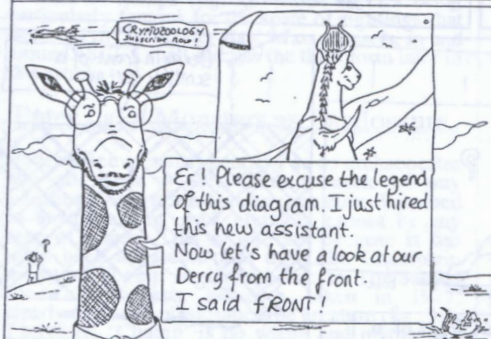
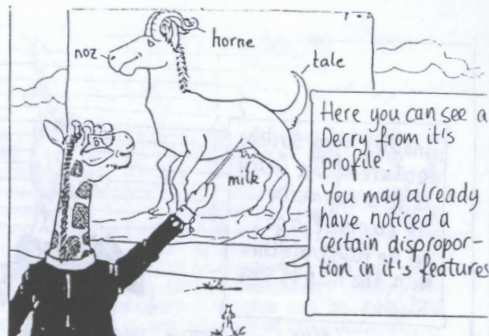
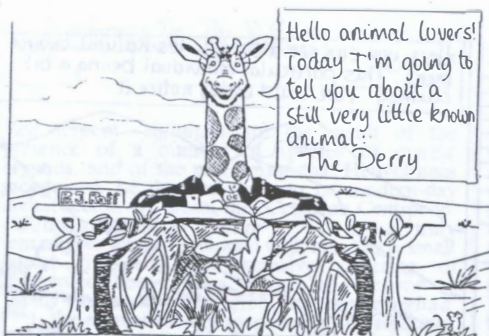
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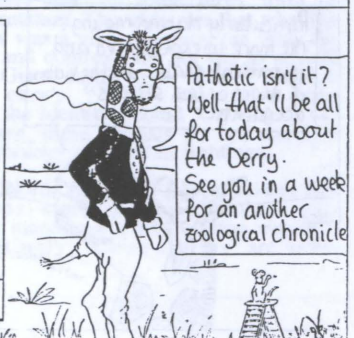
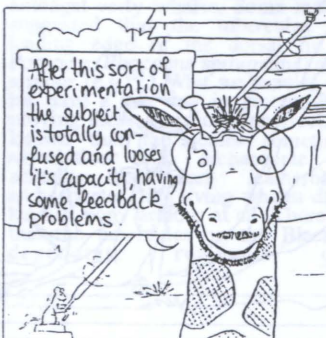
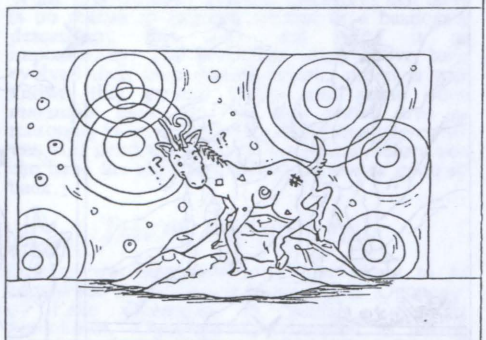
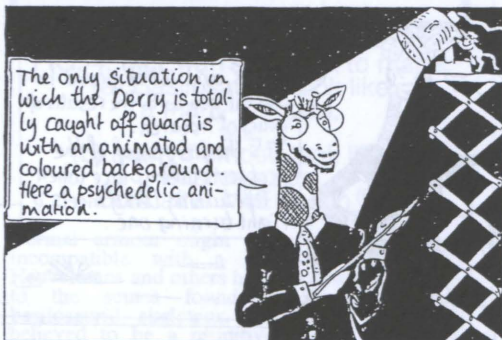
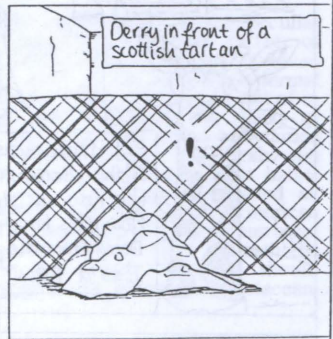
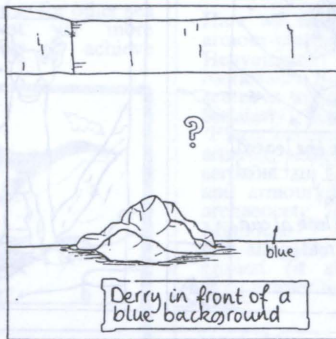
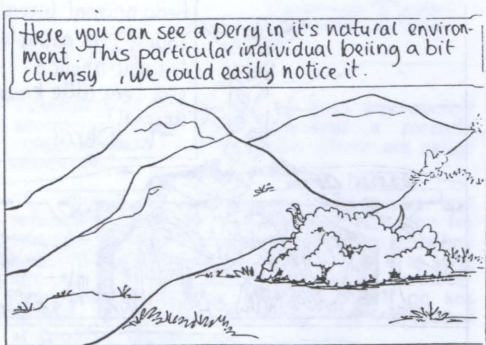
Editorial Note: Every culture on earth has created its own individual zoomythology, to fulfill a specific cultural function. These functions are diverse, and often subtle, and it is our belief that they deserve study as much as do the more tangible creatures in the forteen zoological bestiary. Creatures like 'The Brentford Griffin', for example, are a sociological zoomyth. They are neither based on a specific cultural mythology from history, nor on a zoological reality, but are 'real' in sociological terms, and deserve study.

It is unwise, we believe, to assume that each zoo-myth has its roots in a living, breathing cryptid just waiting to be discovered. Some zoomyths were created for spiritual, financial or even political reasons, and some, like the Swiss 'Derry' have a more subtle sociological function.

Any reader who has ever worked on a building site in Britain, as I did for a few months as a teenager, will be familiar with the ritual which takes place on the first morning of one's employment when the unwary are sent to the foreman's office to collect a piece of mythical equipment called 'a long weight'.

There are several variants on this theme. In Scotland, visiting foreigners have often been sent on a 'haggis hunt', having been told that the haggis is a mythical beast which lurks in the heather of the local moorlands, and no doubt every other culture has its similar mechanism for expressing cultural solidarity by teasing outsiders in a light-hearted manner. The Derry is one of these zoomyths. It is a 'creature' unheard of outside Switzerland, and we are indebted to our Swiss correspondent for enlightening us on the matter..





THE BOARS ARE BACK IN TOWN

By Neil Arnold

Man has such an aggressive nature that it is no wonder so many animal species have become extinct. The larger animals, which once lived in Britain are long gone, but now, even small creatures like rabbits, foxes and badgers are killed.

One might have thought that man would have changed his ways after wiping out the wolves but it seems as though nothing can fully satisfy him. Even harmless pigeons are fair-game.

The big cats, roaming Britain have put a bit of danger back into a countryside which has almost forgotten what a large, dangerous creature looks like. It won't be long, however, before man feels threatened and his red blooded instincts tell him to kill. Maybe, however, a new cycle is beginning. Perhaps the out-of-place creatures such as big cats, bears and poisonous insects are emerging to bring our wildlife back to its roots. There is no law which says that rural Britain should contain only certain animals. Britain is a relatively small habitat but its lack of space does not put man at risk. It is the animals themselves that are in danger.

The last beasts to challenge man were the wolf and the boar. Nowadays deer are the only reasonable sized creature 'officially' living in the British countryside, yet man has made an enemy of them too. Whilst even now, their lives must be very difficult there was a time, when a creature was almost certain of death.

The Britons, Saxons and Romans hunted boar so escape was a rare thing. Man even imported the boar because he got a thrill out of the great battles and like the wolf, it was a creature that would put up a fight. But that fight would not last. Over two hundred years have passed since wild boar grunted in the country. Their lives wiped out by hunters who perceived the boar as some sort of savage creature that destroyed all nature. Yet, the re-introduction of the creatures was more of a game for man who loved to let the creatures go, only to be on their trail and to kill them. The forests of Germany and France are still home to the boar but there will no doubt come a time when a vast majority of them will be driven to the forest in the sky.

Man cannot get along with any creature yet its existence is always frail and every animal must adapt to the ways of man rather than to live in harmony and basically agree to disagree.

There is always a possibility that some species thought to be extinct, are actually still alive and breeding. This is something we all want although any mention of rare and exciting wild animals are likely to attract the hunters who have a field day. Not many of our original wild creatures remain. Many of the creatures apparently back in their homeland are imported. They were not, however, bought here for the right reasons, they are here to please man. In Kent the wild boar is part of the menu which the rich read in the exclusive restaurants that line the country lanes. The fascinating heavyweight animals are caged up in local farms and bred for death. Some however, have escaped. They have a fighting nature. Although breeders deny responsibility for the existence of boar in the fields they are a fact and there are many eyewitness reports, and even photographs that prove it.

Unfortunately there are carcasses to prove it to and many hunters have stuffed specimens in their 'trophy' cabinets.

However, the reputations of the boar give it a bad name and some purist country-folk don't want these creatures, or any other creature that they consider dangerous, at large. An official reintroduction programme is unlikely, and it seems impossible that the animals at large already will receive the protection of the law. The boar that escaped from a park near Rolvenden destroyed all their wake and a majority of people are glad to see them in the boiling pot. Groups of hunters have patrolled the Romney Marsh area and the kills have proved that a colony of these creatures is alive and well. Of course, it is great news that a native creature is back where so many of us feel that they belong, but we can only hope that they survive.

They may be elusive but they are not as clever as the big cats, which have also been reported from the area, so it seems as though their days are numbered. The Kent area is suitable habitat for any creature that wishes to find shelter but the boar can be rounded up and tamed back to its cage with the help of lusty sows.

Hopefully the boar won't become just a delicacy for gourmets although those who live near Romney Marsh believe that the animals should be wiped out as soon as possible. The confrontations have been few and far between and like most creatures, the boar will only attack when provoked. However, a fifty pound peccary on the loose proved to be more of a stranded creature when it attacked a man and his three well built dogs which included a rottweiler. The peccary had been on the run for a full week and caused extreme damage to the dogs. Eventually the animal was tempted back to the park it has escaped from.

A few other boars have been sighted in the area as well as Herne Bay and other parts of Kent. Two of the original Romney Marsh escapees may well be responsible for the family but let's hope they are given enough time to breed healthily. Even a few cross breeds may be formed and the boar situation may become as interesting as the big cat situation.

Of course, the hunters will never cease but we can hope that not all creatures can be extinguished. There are enough zoo's, farms and parks in Kent and knowing the nature of the wild boar there is always a chance that a few may escape. As we know, these creatures were once part of the furniture but nowadays a three hundred pound boar tends to make a few people a little uncomfortable. 'Beaky' the fifty pound peccary had already done too much damage in most people's eyes so it is going to take a drastic change in people's attitudes before any sort of reintroduction programme can be discussed. It is time to recognize that wild boar do exist in small numbers in the south of England, and we should treasure them and hopefully look after them otherwise another chapter in Britain's wildlife will be closed forever. A two hundred year absence is a heck of a long time but when the caged boars start mating I'm pretty sure that a few lusty visitors with unfamiliar grunts will be homing in.

Although the population of boar is small, it is lively and judging by the size of some of them it could be said that we have another monster in our stable. Something that will no doubt fuel the hunters and feed the restaurateurs. And for every snorting creature that makes the dish let's hope another is born and that Britain can permanently regain one of its true natives.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CRYPTO

(Selections from a mythical compilation LP)

by Neil Nixon

The Neutrons - 'Mermaid and Chips'.

Tinkling pianos, early synth effects, choral backing vocals and a lead singer who combines a choirboy vocal line with a hint of strain and throatiness. Yup, we're in obscure prog. rock heaven and the lyrics are a wonderfully arty mish mash of the mundane and the mythical. In the opening line we're on 'Swansea peir' - soon we're spirited away to Tintagel. We sped the whole track seeking a beauty who is never defined because, as the singer says, 'Every time I get a bit closer I seem to get a little bit near'!!.

So much the better if it sounds like a bizarre dream. We're chasing a mermaid here, and after a few trippy keyboard tinkles we find ourselves in the Glasgow snow and reach the end of our search. As per usual in the great crypto quest we get a tantalising fragment of proof. In this case it's nothing more than 'broken shells'.

Sound wise, it leans on Genesis, takes in the odd eclectic musical reference and creates its own peculiar world. 1996 it ain't. This gem resides on the ultra rare 'Black Hole Star' album by the Neutrons, originally released in 1974. You've probably got more chance of finding a real mermaid these days. If you want to sample fortan music of invention, ideas and melodic overkill you could spend £10.00, ten years and about 10,000 road miles hunting 'The Neutrons' out of a second hand shop. Then again, you could check out the latest CD by The Amphibians from Outer Space... (I've heard of them somewhere...Ed).

Guiafairo - The fear that flies by night.

by Owen Burnham

In the forest regions of West Africa there are many beliefs concerning the afterlife, the gods of nature and animal ancestor spirits. These are the entities that populate the skies, trees, rivers and soils of the continent and they exact a powerful influence on the beliefs and lives of the human inhabitants of the area.

One of the most mysterious and terrifying of these 'things that fly by night' is the notorious guiafairo of the savannahs, especially where there are rocky outcrops rising above the plains. Such places abound in West Africa and the guiafairo is seen as a menace in all such areas.

Naming the guiafairo is one thing, describing it is another. All that is clear from each and every account is its stealthy flying ability and the nauseating smell it brings with it. In colour it is said to be grey, 'with the face of a man', and some accounts speak of wings, whilst others merely suggest flight - how else could it come through locked doors? The grey phantasmal shape of the guiafairo is again debateable, because in some cases it appears to be a spirit entity and in others a creature of ghostly greyish black flesh. One thing is clear, those who have encountered the grey, suffocating fear that is the guiafairo never forget it, and in many cases death, from some malaise, occurs a short time after. It is a creeping, paralysing death, like the fear itself, and there is no remedy, no escape and no hope.

By day the guiafairo is said to haunt the hollow trees and rocky outcrops (with their caves) that exist in the hot lands of West Africa. Since no-one seems prepared to verify the lair of the guiafairo nothing can be confirmed. It is a grey entity which appears and disappears at will and only the power of an extreme good-luck charm appears to offer any peace to the people who share its territory. Only rarely does the visiting entity leave a trace of its presence - its smell, or the marks of its clawed feet on dirt floors. These are the only signs of the marauder, the fear that comes by night and steals the souls of its victims. This is guiafairo - the fear that comes by night.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our interest in Owlman type phenomena is well known, and it seems apparent that this entity is similar if not identical to that reported from the area of Falmouth Bay surrounding Mawnan Old Church. We welcome information on similar 'creatures' from around the world.

LETTER FROM THE LOCH-SIDE

by Richard Carter

(of the Loch Ness Society).

I've just returned from a week at the loch and thought you might be interested in something that crossed my mind while sat watching the water. I've seen other people's Nessie.

While sat watching the Loch I was studying a wake from a boat that passed about 10 minutes before, when I wondered how many people had seen the same thing and believed that they had glimpsed the monster. It was then that I started to think just how sceptical one has to be to believe in something like the Loch Ness Monster. I've seen a Gosander with her young run down the middle of the Loch then seemingly just vanish when they stop. Wind slicks shoot across the loch which at first glance look like the shadow of some large beast just under the surface. Ducks seen on a mirror calm loch can be distorted into something of giant size with a terrific wake spreading out. Even the small fishing boats seen on the loch can, under the right conditions take on unusual shapes.

Great Northern Divers can be seen on the Loch as they sit so low in the water with their head and neck sticking out. I'll bet more than a few people out there have seen their 'nessie'. Otters live around the Loch but are rarely seen by people. When they are ... how big would a five foot otter look like to someone who's never seen one before?

I'm not trying to say that Nessie is a case of mistaken objects. Just that, to watch for a sighting you must be aware of what could be misinterpreted for a sighting. When eventually I have MY Nessie sighting, because I am in the right place at the right time, I know that I will have seen the Nessie of Loch Ness and not the 'nessie' of my mind's eye (I hope).

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a regular series of bulletins aimed at keeping the Animals & Men readership up to date with events at Loch Ness. Richard can be contacted at:

5 Dirker Drive
Marsden
Huddersfield
HD7 6AP.

H E L P

This is the section of 'Animals & Men' where we, and you appeal for assistance in various research projects. There are several expeditions in the pipeline at the moment, and at least one needs some assistance:

"Dear Mr Downes,

I am planning an expedition into the North of Tasmania in the summer of 1997 to search for the Thylacine or Marsupial Wolf.

In 1979 Jim Sayles claimed to have attracted a Thylacine by imitating the distress calls of small animals. Can anyone tell me where I could get hold of a tape recording of the distress calls of wombats, wallabies and other prey species. Failing that an old fashioned hunter's "Varmint Caller"?

Sayles also marked his, and his equipment scent with Eucalyptus Oil. If you have any readers in Tasmania, maybe they know a good place to get large quantities?

Finally where could I get hold of a cast, or a copy of the cast of a Thylacine's footprint for use as reference.

*Thanks for your help.
Richard Freeman".*

We would suggest that you approach the National Sound Archive (0171 412 7440) for recordings of the animals that you require. They were helpful a few years ago when certain researchers on Bodmin Moor wanted the sound of a female puma in oestrus, and they may well be able to help you. Another good starting point would be the librarian at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (0171 580 5876) who have been helpful to us recently. As for the rest, at the risk of sounding like a fortune teller, it is over to the 'Animals & Men' readership.

Richard can be contacted c/o the Editorial Address.

HELP EXTRA:
A STRANGE FISH
INDEED

by Michael Goss

(Editor's Note: It is always exciting when we are able to solve a mystery. In the HELP column of issue three, and again in the last issue, we appealed for information about a pair of peculiar carcases washed up on an Essex beach. Veteran fortran Michael Goss picked up a copy of issue 9 at the Unconvention. On June 12 he wrote the following letter to me.)

The strange aquatic creature mentioned in *Animals & Men* #9 (p.38) was almost certainly the angler fish washed ashore at Canvey Island on 29th November 1953, "where it created no end of a stir, and who could wonder at it?".

This information comes from 'Beachcomber' in his regular natural history column for the 'Southend Standard' of Thursday 3rd December following, where it acted as an excuse for a fairly whimsical piece on angler fish and their nightmarish grotesqueness in general. Fluent as he was on the subject, 'Beachcomber' failed to provide any further details of the Canvey specimen, but luckily the 'Canvey News and Benfleet Recorder' put the fish on the front page of its Friday (4 December 1953) issue as a small photo and caption story with more details on page 3. This states that Museum authorities (sic.) were to be consulted about this 'Fish with teeth and toes' which 12-year-old Jacqueline Ward had found the previous Sunday on the beach; it weighed 30lbs and was 2ft. 6 inches long by 15 inches wide with 'protruding eyes, a tongue and teeth. In the centre of the back are two 'feet' complete with toes". In point of fact, a former Leigh fisherman had already identified it as a "pocket" or "fiddle" fish: the latter also being noted in "Beachcomber's" article as one of the popular names for the angler fish.

The page 1 photo leaves absolutely no doubt that the creature was a fish and there is equally no doubt that everyone concerned recognised it as one. Nor was there much ambiguity about the "Fish with feet..." that the Rev. Joseph Overs found on a Canvey beach on Tuesday 10 August the next year. Reporting that he had described it as "four feet long with staring eyes and a large mouth ... on its stomach, it had two feet, each with five toes....", the 'Canvey News and Benfleet Recorder' for 13 August 1954 reminded readers that:

HELP EXTRA: CONTINUED...

"A peculiar fish was found in almost the same place last year and identified as a pocket or 'fiddler' fish'. Patently, and allowing for the fact that the fins and other appendages of the angler fish can be mistaken for 'feet' or similar, this latest arrival belonged to the same family.

For me the biggest mystery about this story lies in the way that it came to be presented as a mystery. My first acquaintanceship with it came from an article in either 'Weekend' or 'Titbits' - more probably the latter - some time between 1978-80, where it was told in what (if memory serves) was very similar wording to the account sent to 'Animals & Men'. I assumed that it had been lifted from some 'Amazing but True' kind of source, as were most of the Forrean-style articles that crept into popular magazines for this period ... but I never managed to track that source down. Nor can I find it in any of my cryptozoological ones.

The writer seems to have taken a strictly local piece of news and blown it up into a major mystery with pronounced cryptoconspiratorial overtones (which, need I say, are totally alien to the press reports I have seen). From clues like the way the author writes of the 'British Canvey Islands', I conclude the author was unfamiliar with the place ... and expected his readers to be unfamiliar with it too.

Then there is the determined effort to present the story in the context of the Devil's Hoofprints. Any resemblance to accounts of other beached enigmas - the Tasmanian globster of 1960, for example - may be accidental. All things considered, I'd guess this account came from an American source of the late 50's or early 60's: Fate perhaps, though I can't find it in the incomplete run of that magazine which I own. But it may well be that the author had some other (English) source which provided data not found in any of the press reports.

Quite Remarkable, to borrow from a much-imitated soccer commentator, that a story which got very little coverage even in a paper serving folk in a small corner of Essex for whom it ought to have been a significant event should get this kind of celebrity. But then, as an old man once told me, 'Stranger things have happened on Canvey Island'.

ODD ORNITHOLOGY

by
ALISON DOWNES

SNOW JOKE!

A pair of rare Arctic snowy owls were seen in Scotland recently. They were thought by excited twitchers to be considering breeding there, but the RSPB confirmed that they were just 'passing through'. (Newsround BBCTV Teletext 8.7.96)

BORNE FROM THE USA

More rare visitors, this time from the USA, have been seen on the Isle of Wight. A rose breasted grosbeak was blown off course during its autumn migration, last year. It is a large, finch like bird which has only been recorded in the UK 23 times. Other American birds were also seen during that month. Teletext on 3 (ITV) p.340. 1.11.95

RINGNECK ROUNDUP

A government survey is being carried out by the Central Science Laboratory on the feeding habits of Britain's colonies of wild ringneck parakeets. MAFF is worried that the birds may become a pest. The Times newspaper recently reported that they were "ousting jackdaws, owls and kestrels from their nests" and this appears to have no foundation in truth.

There are now estimated to be up to 5,000 birds living in colonies around the UK, from the west country to Argyllshire in Scotland. The biggest single colony is at Walton on Thames in Surrey, but there are also many large groups around the London area.

The parakeets are feeding off nuts, bark, flowers, and orchard fruit, and have even been seen on bird-tables. (Cage and Aviary Birds 27.4.96).

BERT THE VULTURE (slight return)

Regular readers will be glad to hear that Bert the vulture, who was reared by an old sock, (see A&M5), has been taught to fly eventually! His keepers were forced to resort to throwing him out of a hot air balloon! If it works....

LETTERS

THE EDITOR WELCOMES LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION ON ANY SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO THIS MAGAZINE. HE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT LETTERS FOR REASONS OF SPACE. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT ALL OPINIONS MADE IN LETTERS OR INDEED ARTICLES ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITOR, ANIMALS & MEN, OR THE CENTRE FOR FORTY-ONE ZOOLOGY

THE KILLING JOKE 1

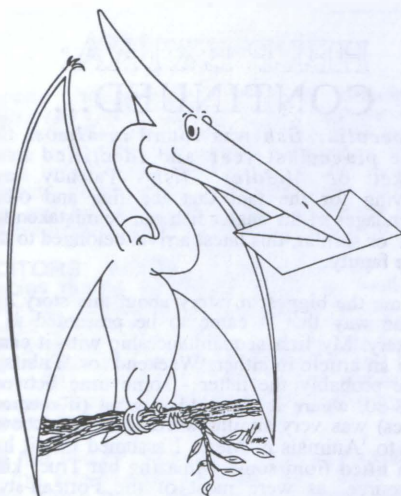
Dear Mr Downes,

I found the article 'On Collecting a Cryptid' interesting, as I have just finished re-reading a book that deals in part with that very question, i.e. should a specimen of an 'unknown' animal be collected just to prove that it does indeed exist and is now 'known'.

The book in question is "Emma Tupper's Diary" by Peter Dickinson, a novel published in 1971 by Victor Gollancz. It deals with the existence, in a fictitious Scottish Loch of a relict colony of Plesiosaurs. Over millions of years they have adapted to a cold water environment, fresh water etc, by becoming smaller and specialised, so much so that any major change to their environment could prove fatal. They are only hanging on by a thread as it were, by the fact of the Loch's isolation, very few farms in the surrounding area, so no pollution - nitrates draining into the Loch etc. The Loch itself is privately owned by a family who's head is aware of the situation and seeks to keep it that way.

When the Ice Ages came, the creatures retreated to a huge cave in the surrounding rocks, heated by hot springs. With this refuge as a base, they could then forage out under the ice-cap to hunt. They became so adapted to dark conditions, that now they're photosensitive, only venturing out on the darkest nights. Also, they could afford to become smaller as they had the heated cave to fall back on.

Towards the end of the book there is a family meeting to preside over the fate of the creatures, and this is where the connection with the article



by Prof. Krantz comes in. The first argument against 'discovery' of these relict plesiosaurs is that they are only just 'hanging on' even though they look so strong and healthy. Any small change in the environment could prove fatal. Investigating scientists, however careful, could perhaps infect the creatures with bacteria from the breaths, for example, as they study the creature's nesting cave.

The head of the clan has this final word to say:

"the question is whether it is better for your creature to subsist in its own strange way, unknown. Or whether it is better to have it thoroughly studied, and probably, in the process kill it dead. It would then be KNOWN; you could find accounts of it in libraries, casts and skeletons in natural history museums. But it would be extinct, as the Dodo is, and the Oryx and the Tiger almost are. Are you prepared to choose?"

I think those words, even after 20 odd years are still relevant. Do we really want to know everything about the Loch Ness creature, even if it means future generations can see the thing displayed in a 'Loch Ness Museum' but the Loch itself would have lost its centuries old aura of mystery and wonder. No-one will ever again see those mysterious humps and necks cruising along the dark waters.

That could never happen? Tell that to the Dodo, and all the other victims of Man's rapaciousness

set out in Peter Verney's 1979 book "Homo Tyrannicus: Man's war against animals". Round about 1830, when it became obvious to the directors of museums worldwide that the Great Auk was on the verge of extinction, what did they do? Band together in an effort to preserve and protect the last remaining survivors?

No. Museums that had no specimens of the Great Auk in their collections sent out expeditions to scour the northern seas for any stragglers that remained. On the island of Eldey the last remaining colony of fifty animals were hunted down and slaughtered to provide museum exhibits. In 1844 the very last known specimen was killed to satisfy the vanity of an Icelandic bird collector.

But that co ldn't happen now, co ld it? Tell it to all the rhinos killed so that some rich arab can swank it up over another rich arab because he's got a rhino horn hilt on his ceremonial dagger, and the other one hasn't. This is happening NOW!

Yours faithfully,

Colin Mather,
Wigan.

THE KILLING JOKE 2

Dear Mr Downes,

I would like to comment on the article 'On Collecting a Cryptid' by Grover Krantz.

In 1989 I was asked by a Dutch television station to comment on a film concerning the hunt for Bigfoot. At first I did not like this too much as I am not specialised in Bigfoot but more in the Loch Ness phenomena. However, when I saw the short film I found it necessary to comment as Prof. Krantz was promoting the killing of one, and probably more, as scientists are not that easily convinced of the existence of these animals.

Personally, I do not like this way of getting proof. It may satisfy the scientist's hunger for a big achievement, but I don't think it will do the 'animals' themselves any good. The big id a is always that it needs identification to get protected, but I don't see any big scientists acting on this protection. Even though they must ave a lot of influence, they leave it to others.

In the article Prof. Krantz again comes up with his killing theories, this time in regards to the Loch Ness phenomena. Sending out whalers to harpoon one. These whalers, he hopes are "hopefully unemployed". He seems concerned for

the whales, but also feels that harpooning a Nessie will be O.K. We all know what it means to kill in the name of science; just look at the animals who use this pretext to hunt the whales into extinction. I would like to point out to Prof. Krantz that the local by law protecting the Loch Ness phenomena, still appears to be active.

I also contacted the Departments of Wildlife in Oregon, Washington State and British Columbia concerning the hunt for Bigfoot and even though Washington State and British Columbia stated that they were not in a position to forbid this; Oregon State passed a resolution to protect the Bigfoot against hunting. Mr William I. Haight, Chief of Non-Game Wildlife Management, stated to me in a letter of 26.10.1989:

"Whilst this action does not carry the same enforcement and penalty provisions as a state statute, it did send a message to would be Bigfoot hunters that killing of one of these animals in Oregon would not be tolerated. Should Prof. Krantz attempt to propose such an action in this state, I assure you that the idea will be discouraged".

So, Prof. Krantz, in my opinion, should be more careful with his promotion of hunting.

I would also like to comment on the letter by Mr. Michael Playfair, Leicestershire, in which it was, to my humble meaning, rightly stated that there seems to be a tradition of monster sightings there. However, I always found the Alexander Graham statement a little doubtful as he mentions a River Enrick entering Loch Lomond. There is a River Enrick entering Urquhart Bay, Loch Ness. Is there actually one entering Loch Lomond as w ll? I could not find it on any map?

Yours faithfully,

Martien, 't Mannetje,
Rockanje,
The Netherlands.

ALAN MOORE KNOWS THE SCORE

Dear Mr Downes,

In response to your request for cryptozoological related comics, I remember one story concerning the yeti. It was published in 1979 or 1980 in Marvel UK's 'Dr Who Monthly'. (Come to think of it, back then it was a weekly). The artist was Dave Gibbons, and I think the writer was the renowned Alan Moore (of 'Swamp Thing' and 'The Killing Joke') fame).

The story concerned a cryptozoological expedition in search of the yeti. The yeti turn out to be robot replicas, much the same as in the two Dr. Who yeti adventures. They are controlled by the Great Intelligence, a disembodied entity that possesses the expedition's Sherpa guides.

At the end of the story a Buddhist monk leads an army of real yetis to the rescue. The genuine articles tear apart their robot replicas. The robot yetis are dumpy creatures with round hips and a featureless head with no neck. The real yetis look like huge, hairy apes much as the real ones are supposed to. The exception are their heads. They are too round (not conical as the real yetis are supposed to be), and their eyes are much too round and large like those of a Bush Baby.

In issue three you printed a letter from a 'retired Colonial Officer' concerning the apparent immunity of a Nigerian man to Scorpion venom. The arachnid in question is described as 'large and black'. This sounds very like the Imperial Scorpion. This species has venom no more potent than a Bumble Bee's. It could sting a man many times with only discomfort ensuing. Generally, scorpions with large claws crush their prey, and the venom is only a secondary line of attack. Look out for scorpions with slender claws, however, they are the deadly ones.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Freeman.
Nuneaton.

EDITORIAL INTERJECTION: Because, as I type this, it is a beautiful summer day, I am watching the Men's Single's Final at Wimbledon, and I am feeling generally frivolous, here is a second 'phone in quiz'. The headline to this letter! Who, Why, When? The winner gets a free year's subscription to A&M. The first person to sing the relevant passage to us down the telephone also gets a free copy of my new book.

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

I read with genuine sadness of our noble Editor's largely fruitless struggle to persuade numerous other organisations to co-operate with us via the medium of copies of 'Animals & Men' - but to be perfectly frank I cannot say I'm surprised.

One of the truest sayings is 'a chain is as strong as its weakest link', and I am going to grasp the nettle and say that quite a lot of what goes into this otherwise excellent publication does the Centre for Fortean Zoology no good at all.

Yes, I feel the cause of this rejection is in your hands at this moment. Just read it carefully and objectively - and honestly ask yourself what sort of an impression it might give to someone who might not know us.

On the one hand there are such excellent, valuable and important articles as those on extinct Whales and the Congo Peacock, that could well grace a scientific journal on this planet, whilst on the other there's sheer, utter, rot, such as 'Now that's what I call Crypto', in which the author tries desperately, and unsuccessfully to be funny.

Someone gives his address as 'somewhere' - which would be fine in a Student's rag magazine, but not in one that seeks to be taken seriously - and I'm sincerely sorry to note that the Editorial Staff does not take it's work as seriously as it might: I mean, just read the very first part on the inside of the cover, beginning with 'This' a d ending in 'Crew', and I think you'll see what I mean.

Yes, in my own magazine, 'Mainly about Animals', I write in a very free, friendly and informal manner, but out of respect for its readers I firmly refrain from mateyness, cosyneess, cameraderie, bonhomie, - call it what you will - simply because I don't think it's a good thing under the circumstances. I think I've been proved right, too, by the lack of response from those other societies.

I've been a cryptozoologist since before most of 'Animals & Men' readers were even thought of and take the subject very seriously (although not ponderously or heavily). As things stand I cannot help feeling that many open-minded people must wonder whether it's an important and highly specialised science, or a haven and forum for offbeat oddballs.

Clinton Keeling.

EDITORIAL RESPONSE:

To answer Clinton's last statement first (in my best surrealchemical manner): It's both! One person's definition of 'offbeat oddball' however is another person's definition of freethinker, and yet another person's 'dangerous lunatic'. Cryptozoology is a "serious and specialised science", and has been for well over forty years (as Clinton says, before even I was thought of), but Cryptozoology is only part of what we deal with. Fortean Zoology is a completely different kettle of coelacanth's (I know because I invented it!) It is an outrageous and ridiculous discipline, in which Cryptozoology, the study of

folklore, large chunks of sociology, theology and anthropology, and many other accepted branches of the natural sciences go hand in hand with Lexlinking and Surrealchimy in search of the truth behind various, seemingly insoluble mysteries.

To answer the other comments, however. Our readership, which presently has a growth rate of something in the region of 65% a year range in age (that I know of) between 12 and 84. We try to include editorial content for both age groups as well as everything in-between. We have always stressed the importance of 'mystery animals' as culture icons. Now that's what I call crypto' is a light-hearted attempt to list various pieces of rock music dealing with the subject. As such, I feel that it is successful.

'Gavin' is the pseudonym used by the 1989 Owlman witness. In view of his, almost unique, and surreal experience, as well as his anonymity, to give his address as 'somewhere' seems perfectly appropriate.

I would like to stress that Clinton Keeling, both as a zoologist, a writer and a human being is someone for whom I have a lot of respect. I may not always agree with him but that is my privilege, as it is his to disagree with me. The fact that this magazine provides a forum for two such disparate writers as him and myself to write, under the same metaphorical roof as writers as diverse as Shuker, Shiels, Heuvelmans and Naish, can only, I feel be a good thing.

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK 2.

Excerpts from a much longer letter...

Re the reported lack of interest you claimed from various natural history societies, it comes as no surprise to me, nor, I expect to you.

From my experience, for what its worth, these groups are the last vestiges of the Victorian amateurism, with its inherent myopic view of anything outside its narrow borders. Composed of retired people, led by a local academic of advanced years, they have a predilection for songbirds and wildflowers. They can only cope with a sanitised view of things, never mind anything vaguely fortan.

I can remember at primary school being asked by our teacher, one of the above, to name animals for some test or other. I said 'Echidna', being a smartarse kind of kid. She informed me no such thing existed.

That taught me more than she had intended...

Tom Anderson,
Aberdeen.

(EDITORIAL NOTE: I had practically the same experience with the words 'Caecilian' and 'Amphiuma'. If they don't exist, I wonder what is swimming around in that tank outside my bedroom door?

Our main area of argument is the lack of cooperation we have had from some 'small-town' natural history societies and from a few, but, by no means all the internationally known museums.

When I started cryptozoological research in 1978, I had a long, happy and fruitful relationship with various scientists at the British Museum (Natural History). They then felt that their remit included assisting with serious research by members of the general public. In recent years, some staff at this and other museums, have been exceedingly rude to both Alison and myself, as well as other members of our organisation. They have also refused to help us in even the most simple areas of research without charging us ridiculous sums of money. I find this attitude immeasurably sad, and feel convinced that much valuable research is not taking place because of these draconian costs. What was once a national treasure house is now a source for national shame!

As far as the lack of interest we have received from regional natural history societies, Tom Anderson's hypothesis is probably right. More prosaically, however, some of these societies combine their lack of imagination with a lamentable lack of manners. Over the past few weeks we have met representatives from some regional naturalists' societies who have just greeted our attempts at 'bridge building' with deliberate rudeness! (That was without actually seeing the magazine). We have/do collaborate(d) successfully with scientists from Exeter University, The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Plymouth Museum, The National Museums of Scotland, The University of Hong Kong, and a number of other museums, Universities and Zoos worldwide. We are taken seriously by publishing firms, TV companies, and newspapers/magazines with an international distribution. To date, although there are a number of organisations who have refused to collaborate with us this is their loss rather than ours! There is no-one to date whose refusal has caused me more than momentary annoyance. JD.).

BOOK REVIEWS

'The Lost Birds of Paradise' by Errol Fuller 160pp (Swan Hill) £30.00

One of the nice things about running a magazine like 'Animals & Men' is that you come across books that you would otherwise, almost certainly, never have read. This book is a perfect example. From the author of the best book I have ever read about Extinct Birds, this book examines the specific status of nineteen species of Birds of Paradise - some known only from a single specimen. Whereas forty three species of these birds are generally known to science, these extra nineteen - the 'lost' Birds of Paradise turn out to be a tantalising miscellany of hybrids, aberrations with the occasional hint of a new species. The number of putative hybridisations between the species is interesting. It seems that, especially amongst some of the Riflebirds such genetic mix-and-matching is more common than would otherwise be supposed.

Although the scholarship of this book cannot be faulted, it is as a series of meticulously crafted 'detective stories' that it is most successful. As an aficionado of such things I find the narrative, which intertwines continuously with the life story of the tortured but brilliant Baron Rothschild, once the owner of what was perhaps the biggest private collection of Natural History specimens nothing short of enthralling. As a child my Grandfather used to tell me stories about Rothschild and his exploits, and this book offers up, amongst the wealth of ornithological detail precious vignettes and insights into his unique life.

This book is masterfully written and lavishly illustrated with many photographs, prints and drawings. It is an essential item for the library of anyone interested either in birds or in cryptozoology.

'Rumours of Existence' by Matthew Bille (Hancock House)

A new book on general cryptozoology from the editor of the excellent news-sheet 'Exotic Zoology'. This book manages, not only to cover well known cryptids (if that is not a contradiction in terms), in a fresh and interesting way, but also includes a wealth of exciting and interesting information that I, for one, have not come across elsewhere.

It is divided into three sections: 'Recent

Discoveries', 'Presumed Extinct' and 'The Mystery Animals'. It is hard to know which sections to single out for particular praise. In order to try and make up my mind I leafed through the contents page which prompted me to want to read the book all over again! You can't really praise a book higher than that!

'Hills and Streams - An Ecology of Hong Kong' by David Dudgeon and Richard Corlett (Hong Kong University Press 234pp. Price on Application to us).

Regular readers will be aware of my longstanding interest in the zoology of Hong Kong, and of our ongoing study into the Forrean Zoology of the territory. For those who do not understand the fascination that I have with the subject, this book may enlighten them to a degree at least. It is a scholarly but gripping insight into the ecology of a landscape almost entirely shaped by man. The original forestation was destroyed several centuries ago, and whilst the British Administration fostered a reforestation programme starting in the years previous to the first world war, most of this secondary growth was destroyed during the Japanese occupation of 1941-5.

The reforestation began again after the war, and as the countryside has slowly recovered so has its zoology. This is the story of the recovery and provides some essential signposts to indicate what may happen over the next hundred years.

'Sasquatch Bigfoot - The Continuing Mystery' by Thomas N. Steenburg (Hancock House 127pp \$11.95US)

An engaging account of one man's search for the elusive Canadian man-beast. One of the most likeable things about this book is that it is nearly all from eyewitness accounts researched personally by the author.

It could be argued that this is also one of the drawbacks of the book, in that the better known cases are not included. Unlike the bulk of the material presented here they are available elsewhere.

This is not the definitive work on the subject. That honour goes either to John Green (see below) or to Grover Krantz, but it is a nice collection of interviews and research notes which makes a useful addition to the 'man-beast' section in our cryptozoological library.

'Sasquatch - The Apes Amongst Us'
by John Green (Hancock House
492pp)

A timely re-print of what, by anyone's standards is one of the classic works on the subject. This book contains all that you could possibly want to know about the larger BHM phenomena of the North American continent. If I have any reservations at all about it, it is that it treats the phenomena within a purely zoological frame of reference, and whilst I have little doubt that there is a conventional cryptozoological element to the Bigfoot and Sasquatch reports of the last four decades, I am equally certain that a large number of these phenomena are zooforn in nature.

It is, however churlish to reject the immense amount of work which has gone into this book purely on those grounds, and therefore I have no hesitation whatsoever recommending it.

'According to the Evidence' by Erich von Daniken £9.99

'Signs of the Gods' by Erich von Daniken £7.99

'Journey into Supermind' by Dr. Richard Lawrence £8.99

'The Lost world of Agharti' by Alec Maclellan £7.99

'The Bermuda Triangle' by Charles Berlitz £8.99

'Zolar's encyclopaedia of ancient and forbidden knowledge' £9.99

"Hey guys", said the eager and fresh-faced publicity director at the Monday morning Board Meeting. "You must have seen how the X Files is the most popular programme on TV these days.... Strange phenomena are this year's thing ... well, why don't we reissue some of these ever so groovy books on the subject?"

The answer should have been, "...Because they are outdated nonsense which you can pick up at any car boot sale for 50p a time!".

Of course nobody dared say this to the fresh-faced publicity director so the company, (whose

name I am leaving out because I am probably being libellous), went ahead and reprinted the books listed above (if this 'knowledge' - and I use the word reservedly - is that ancient and forbidden why is it included in tacky paperbacks?), and sent out unsolicited packages of six or seven books to any publication they could find with even the most tenuous links to the paranormal.

We, as the fresh-faced publicity director should have known, are a magazine about cryptozoology and its allied disciplines, and only very occasionally give any space to blatantly commercial twaddle of no scientific or fortaean significance (and then only when it is amusing). We therefore took the lot down to the car boot sale where we swapped them for a CD by Scott Walker, a broken fish tank, and an electric kettle and promptly forgot about the whole matter.

'Monster Monster - A Survey of the North American Monster Scene' by Betty Sanders Garner (Hancock House 190pp \$12.95US)

The worst thing about this book is the title and the tacky picture of a 'nessie' type creature on the front cover. The packaging doesn't really do the contents justice because it is a cheerful round up of various North American cryptids which presents both well known and more obscure cases in an eminently readable and approachable style.

'On the Track'... it ain't, but although not essential by any means it is a satisfying addition to the library.

The chapter on the White River Monster is particularly good. On the whole the coverage of aquatic phenomena here is better than either the BHM coverage or the (very brief) look at the Texas 'Big Bird' reports. It is, however worth buying, or at least borrowing.

'The Book of the Unicorn' by Nigel Suckling. (Paper Tiger 128pp £12.95).

I am not a great fan of Paper Tiger's whimsical 'hippy' art books. Artwork which looked great on a 'Yes' LP in 1972 has, I believe, little or no relevance to the serious fortaean researcher, and, now the smell of incense, and the sounds of temple bells (not to mention temple balls - snigger), has faded the new-agey culture they

present is aesthetically fairly displeasing in 1996. This book, however, is undeniably attractive, and could well be seen as a counterpart to Karl Shuker's excellent Dragon book of last year. The illustrations are a little bit too Patrick Woodruffe/Roger Dean for my liking, but the text is neatly written and includes an account of Dr Dove's 1930's experiments on bull calves, as well as the more familiar Biblical and mythological references. Much to my surprise, I even got quite enthusiastic about things unicornian by the end of the book, and despite the hippy drawings, I can honestly recommend it!

'LOCH NESS - The Tour' by Richard Carter (Carterways 32pp £1.50)

This particularly engaging little booklet is written by one of the founder members of The Loch Ness Society. For half the price of a packet of cigarettes you get one man's viewpoint of the best places to visit in the vicinity of Loch Ness.

You are told where the best spots are if you want to see spawning salmon, a little bit about Aliester Crowley's sojourn at Boleskine House (but nothing about Jimmy Page's much longer residence at the same place), a guide to some of the local wildlife and the best places to go to see them.

There is, of course, a brief history of 'Nessie' sightings, but, refreshingly it is the other sights and sounds of the area which make up the bulk of the information on offer. There are a number of useful telephone numbers and route planning instructions, and I can truthfully say that this is one of the NICEST books on Loch Ness that has ever come our way.

'CADBOROSAURUS - Survivor from the Deep' by Paul LeBlond and Edward Bousfield. 134pp.

This is one of the most remarkable books on a single facet of cryptozoology that I have read in many years. Following on from their acclaimed paper for *Amphipacifica* last year, this is an extraordinary piece of research which paints a convincing picture of an extraordinary cryptid - a reptile with 'mammalian traits'. Even a hard core sceptic like your editor is convinced wholeheartedly.

The important thing now is for Bousfield and LeBlond to get funds enough to continue their work and get the conclusive proof that they so unquestionably deserve. In this case at least the truth really is out there!

COMING SOON

Later this year, The Centre for Fortean Zoology will be publishing some more books. Reprint volumes of 'The Shiels Effect' and 'The Cantrip Codex' by Tony 'Doc' Shiels, 'The Owlman and Others' by Jonathan Downes and the CFZ Yearbook 1997 are all expected in October.

Not to be confused with the yearbooks are planned book format reprints of the first four issues of 'Animals & Men' which, hopefully will also be issues before Christmas.

We are still hoping to issue the first of our Supplements, a collection of information on the out of place birds of the last twelve months, sometime this year.

At present, apart from the back issues, which will no longer be available when the reprint volumes are published, we have three books available.

THE CFZ YEARBOOK 1996. £10.00

Nearly two hundred pages of research papers and long articles by a variety of contemporary cryptozoologists, including Dr Karl Shuker, Tony 'Doc' Shiels, Jonathan Downes, Francois de Sarre, Tom Anderson, Richard Muirhead, Clinton Keeling and many more. Well illustrated with drawings and maps.

MORGAWR: THE MONSTER OF FALMOUTH BAY by A Mawnan-Peller £1.50

Timely reprint of the 1976 original with a new introduction by Tony 'Doc' Shiels, and an essay by Jonathan Downes, plus the complete text of the original.

THE SMALLER MYSTERY CARNIVORES OF THE WEST COUNTRY by Jonathan Downes £7.50.

A fascinating guide to some of the lesser known mammalian cryptids of the south western peninsular of the British Isles. Over a hundred pages. Lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and drawings. Introduction by Dr Karl P.N.Shuker.

WE ARE ENTIRELY SELF FINANCING AND RELY ON SALES TO CONTINUE SO PLEASE SUPPORT US BY BUYING OUR PUBLICATIONS.

PERIODICAL REVIEWS

We welcome an exchange of periodicals with magazines of mutual interest although because we now exchange with so many magazines we have been forced, much against our fœrtan methodology, to categorise them.

CRYPTOZOOLOGY AND ZOOMYTHOLOGY

DRAGON CHRONICLE. The dragon trust, PO Box 3369, London SW6 6JN. A fascinating collection of all things draconian which now appears four times a year. Now A4 and Glossy...how do they DO it?

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CRYPTOZOOLOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER. 3773 West 18th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. V6S 1B3. Excellent and well put together, and they are now on the Internet as well!

CREATURE RESEARCH JOURNAL. Paul Johnson, 721 Old Greensburg Pike, North Versailles, PA 15137-1111 USA. New issue devoted to Pennsylvania Bigfoot reports 1994-5.

CRYPTOZOOLOGIA. Association Belge d'Etude et de Protection des Animaux Rares, Square des Latins 49/4, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium. A French language magazine published by the Belgian society for Cryptozoology.

CRYPTOZOOLOGY REVIEW. 137 Atlas Ave, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M6C 3P4. Excellent new publication on cryptozoology. Includes fascinating article on a cryptic polychaete from St Lucia.

EXOTIC ZOOLOGY. 3405 Windjammer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO80920 USA. A free newsletter from the author of 'Rumours of existence'. Useful round up of information on new and rediscovered species.

FRINGE SCIENCE

SCIENCE FRONTIERS. Sourcebook P0rject, PO Box 107, Glen Arm, MD21057. Newsletter of William Corliss' invaluable Sourcebook Project. Fascinating snippets of useful information. Their latest book, by the way 'Mammals Vol. 1' will be reviewed in A&M#11.

NEXUS 55. Queens Rd, E Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1BG. Intelligent look at the fringes of science. Well put together. Very impressive.

FORTEAN/EARTH MYSTERIES/FOLKLORE

TEMS NEWS. 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY. An entertaining collection of odds and sods and generally weird stuff. A magazine I always enjoy reading. Recommended.

HAUNTED SCOTLAND. Mark Fraser, 35 South Dean Rd, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland. KA3 7RD. This has been an enjoyable and bizarre newsletter covering weirdness from north of the border. Soon to be a magazine per se, we await the first issue eagerly.

COVER UP. David Coleman, 39 Limefield Crescent, Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland. EH48 1RF. The magazine of the Lothian Unexplained Phenomena Research group. UFOs, animal mutilation, ghosts etc. This is a useful addition to the scene and the editor should be congratulated for his hard work.

DELVE. Gene Dyplantiier, 17 Shetland St. Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. M2m 1X5. Fortean magazine. New issue includes an article on the flying snake of Namibia.

3rd STONE. PO Box 258, Cheltenham, GL53 1HR. Magazine of the Gloucester Earth Mysteries Group. Wittily and intelligently put together.

DEAD OF NIGHT. 156 Bolton Road East, Newferry, Wirral, Merseyside, L62 4RY. An amusing and intelligently put together Fortean magazin. Great article about Crowley/Bolsekin. My favourite fortan journal.

ZOOLOGY/NATURAL HISTORY

SOUTH WEST HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER. Frank Gibbons, Acanthus, 59 St Marychurch Rd, Torquay, Devon. Entertaining and informative newsletter from a thriving organisation. Contains some quasi fortan oddments.

BIPEDIA. Francois de Sarré, C.E.R.B.I. 6 Avenue George V, 06000 Nice, France. Issue twelve of this scholarly magazine is now available. Written partly in French, partly in English, it explores the obscure, but fascinating theory of Initial Bipedalism, and its allied discipines.

MILTON KEYNES HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY 15 Esk Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Excellent A5 magazine containing handy hints, informative articles and news of what appears to be an exciting organisation.

MAINLY ABOUT ANIMALS. 13 Pound Place, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8HH. Veteran Zoologist Clinton Keeling edits this wonderful A5 magazine which is, as the title says, mainly about animals. This is a genre of magazine that I and many others feared was lost forever and it comes with your editor's highest recommendation.

ESSEX REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS SOCIETY. 6 Chestnut Way, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex, CO5 0NX. Another excellent and lively regional reptile society.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE ANIMAL KEEPERS. 8 Yewlands Walk, Ifield, Crawley, West Sussex. RH11 0QE. Useful publication including a wealth of information about wild animal husbandry. This is an organisation which, especially in the present political climate needs your support.

THE MANE. Wild Equid Society, Flat 19, 119 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4RS. Fascinating journal about wild horses and their relatives. Includes much of interest to the cryptozoologist.

MISCELLANEOUS

NETWORK NEWS. P.O. BOX 2, LOSTWITHIEL, CORNWALL PL22 0YY. Anarchism, Earth mysteries, weirdness, and even a little cryptozoology. This is the sort of monumentally groovy collection which should be encouraged. Issue 10 is the 'Sex Magic Sacrifice' issue by the way...

FOAFTALE NEWS. Department of Folklore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St Johns, Newfoundland, CANADA. A1B 3X8. Academic approach to contemporary folklore. Essential.

PENDRAGON. Smithy House, Newton by Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 6SX. A scholarly and massively entertaining magazine on things Arthurian. Manages to keep an entertaining balance between literature and history. Highly recommended.

LOBSTER. 214 Westbourne Avenue, Hull, HUS 3JB. It is nice to see a conspiracy theory magazine with a UK bias which means that it is not overly obsessed with JFK. The articles on the ML6 involvement in the 1953 coup in Iran in issue 30 was especially good, and the same issue even mentioned Arthur Ransome, which as our Sussex reps will tell you can only endear them in the eyes of the A&M editor!

